

STAMPTM

MAGAZINE



**The new realism
behind Canada's
1893 higher values**



**Our verdict on
Royal Mail's 2015
Christmas issue**



Mixed races

Have stamps fully reflected Britain's ethnic diversity?

Why it's crazy to opt out of Europa



Rogue state

Rhodesia's postal history after UDI

Tonga under Queen Salote



How a tiny island kingdom attracted global attention with its bravado and quirky stamps



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WELCOME

Reading this month's feature about Queen Salote of Tonga, and her two high-profile encounters with Queen Elizabeth II, set me idly wondering: how many times in world history have two queens regnant (as opposed to queen consorts) actually met each other?



My guess is that it's surprisingly few. In ancient and medieval times, queens were seldom permitted to rule. Until comparatively recently, heads of state rarely travelled abroad, and in the modern world there are few remaining monarchies.

Did you know that even Queen Elizabeth I of England and Mary Queen of Scots, who were cousins and whose realms shared the same island (and one of whom was the other's prisoner), never met?

Salote famously made a big impression at the coronation in 1953, partly because she was prepared to brave the rain to acknowledge the crowds but partly, no doubt, because she showed queenship in a powerful light, at a time when most Britons weren't old enough to remember Queen Victoria.

Born in the Victorian age and present at the dawn of the Elizabethan age, Salote straddled the two eras. And, just like her fellow queens, she presided over extraordinary philatelic developments — in her case, Tonga's abandoning of rectangular, recess or gravure-printed, perforated stamps in favour of free-form, gold-foil embossed, die-cut, imperforate designs. Hers was a modernising reign in many ways, and stamps were no exception.

GUY THOMAS, Editor

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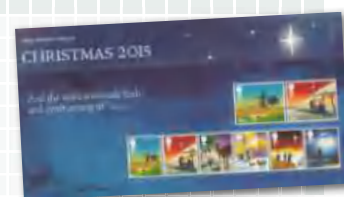
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Win a Christmas presentation pack!
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'More disturbing than the stamps Royal Mail has issued recently is one stamp it hasn't issued'

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Faroe Islands Stamps

Christmas Issues and Year Collections 2015



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Jersey set designed by islanders of all ages

Jersey's latest issue was designed by amateur artists on the island, including three children under the age of 12, another three under the age of 18 and an adult with learning disabilities.

The 10 stamps in the My Jersey set, issued on November 9, were the winning entries in a competition launched in October last year, asking islanders to illustrate what Jersey means to them, using any form of artistic media.

The competition was divided into three age categories: 11 years and under, 12-17, and 18 and over. A total of 228 entries were

received from individuals, schools and organisations.

Five winning designs feature on Local Letter stamps and five on UK Priority Letter stamps, printed in litho by Cartor.

Winners in the 11-and-under category were Matthew Brown (surfboard, sailing boat and sun), Leah O'Brien (girl and boy rockpooling) and Skye Leather (Corbière lighthouse).

Chosen designs from the 12-17 age group were those by Millie Foley (cow munching flower), Ciaran Britton (Jersey Royal potatoes) and Claudia Dixon (crest of Jersey).



Hong Kong postboxes face Chinese cover-up



The authorities in Hong Kong are planning to hide the British royal ciphers which remain on old iron postboxes under a metal cover, 'to avoid confusion'.

Red postboxes in the former British territory were painted green upon the handover of sovereignty to China in 1997, and given an extra Hong Kong Post Office plaque, but most were left in use despite having royal symbols.

Seven still bear the insignia of King George V, two of King George VI and 46 of Queen Elizabeth II.

Conservationists are complaining that the new move is a crude attempt to 'airbrush British rule from history'.

Post & Go stamps introduced by Qatar

The latest country to offer Post & Go machine-vended stamps in the British style is Qatar, which introduced them during the Gulf Cooperation Council philatelic exhibition in Doha from September 29-October 3.

Two IAR machines supplied by Royal Mail dispensed a definitive design illustrating the Arms of Qatar, and a commemorative variety which additionally had the multicoloured exhibition logo overlapping the machine-printed service and coding information.

These were available in collector's strips of four different values, including one for the letter rate to European Union countries.

Initially installed in a shopping mall, the machines are reported to have been subsequently moved to the General Post Office.



Alderney issue recalls residents' traumatic 1945 homecoming

Alderney has issued a miniature sheet to mark the 70th anniversary of Homecoming Day, when the first group of residents returned to their island following World War II.

Unlike the other Channel Islands, almost the entire 1,500-strong population of Alderney had been evacuated in June 1940. The subsequent German occupation of the island saw the building of forced-labour camps, concentration camps, concrete bunkers and gun emplacements, leaving the landscape barely recognisable, and the ransacking of abandoned homes and businesses.

Although Alderney was liberated on May 16, 1945, islanders did not begin to return until December 15, and faced a difficult and traumatic rebuilding process when they did so.

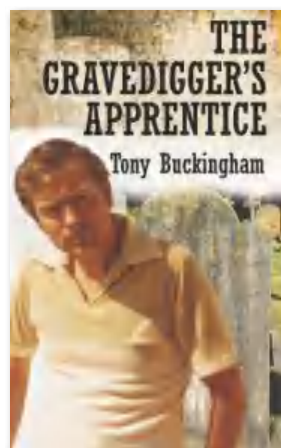
Homecoming Day is commemorated every year, and December 15 is a public holiday on Alderney.

With its single £3 stamp featuring a painting of the homecoming, the miniature sheet was printed in litho by Lowe-Martin and issued on November 10.



Tony Buckingham's humorous memoir

British first day covers dealer Tony Buckingham has published an autobiography relating the story of his rise from gravedigger's assistant via deputy headmaster to full-time philatelic trader.



Covering the years up to 1974, when he transformed his kitchen-table stamp-dealing hobby into a lucrative business as Benham Covers, the 420-page book is a very personal memoir, full of humorous anecdotes.

Buckingham sold Benham for £3m in 1996, and subsequently set up the Internet Stamps Group and Buckingham Covers.

The Gravedigger's Apprentice is available from online booksellers Amazon, at £8.17 in paperback form and at £2.61 in digital form, for reading on a Kindle device.

Europa design prize awarded to Russia

PostEurop's jury has awarded the prize for the best Europa stamp of 2015 to Russia.

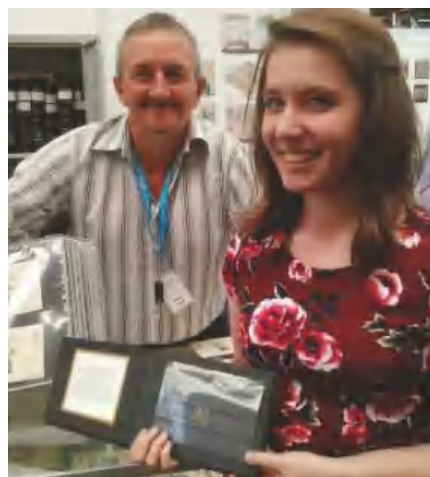
The 23r stamp on this year's Europa theme of Old Toys, issued in January, depicts a toy merry-go-round and traditional *matryoshka* dolls.

The online vote which runs alongside the award was won by Turkey.



When Giulia met Penny

The winner of a Penny Black in the prize draw following the children's auction at Autumn Stampex was Giulia Barker from London. She received it from its donor, Robin Cassell of Mulready Philatelics.



NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ Monacophil on December 3-5 will have an exhibition of polar philately in addition to its traditional displays of world rarities put on by members of the Club de Monte-Carlo. Visit www.monacophil.eu

➤ Australia Post is seeking approval from the competition watchdog to raise the price of basic postage from 70c to \$1 (an increase of almost 43%), while downgrading its delivery target from one day to two.

➤ Paris-based expertisers Christian Calves and Alain Jacquot are offering a free online certificate alongside all paper certificates. These can be consulted by potential buyers and exhibition judges on their website, www.timbres-experts.com

➤ Jersey's Post & Go kiosk was due to visit the Sindelfingen stamp fair in Germany at the end of October, vending stamps with an exhibition overprint.

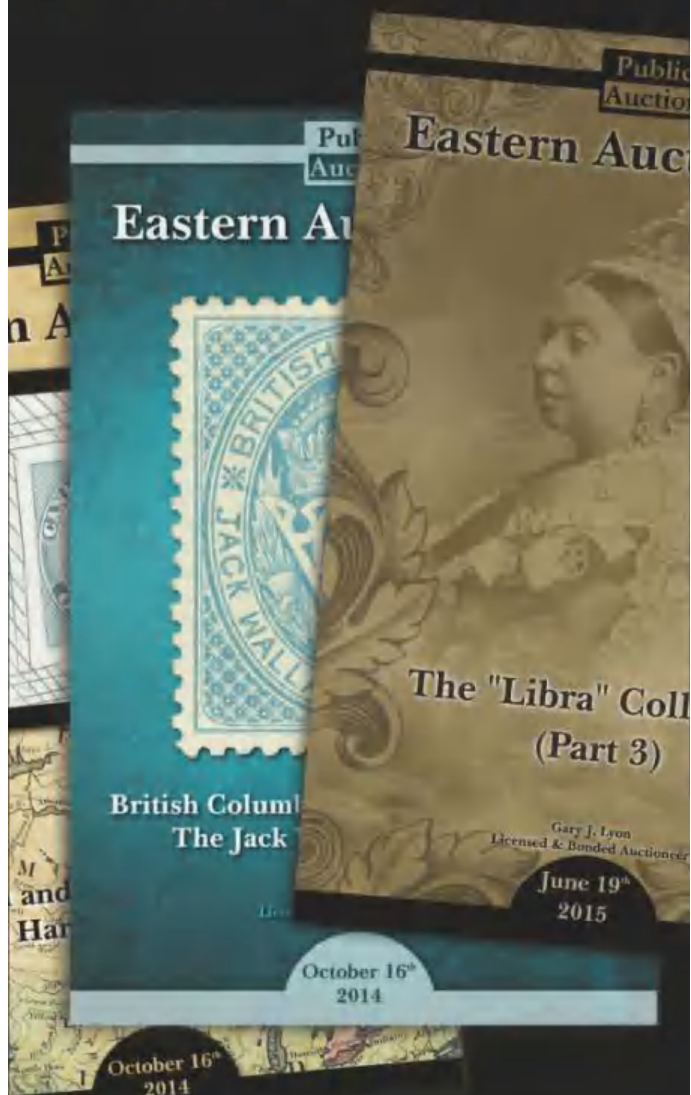
➤ Rapp Auctions is celebrating the 170th anniversary of the Basel Dove, the world's first multicoloured stamp, with an exhibition at its premises in Wil, Switzerland, on November 14.

➤ Shares in Stanley Gibbons fell by 30% in October after the company warned of lower profits. The slowdown in the Chinese economy was blamed.

➤ The Great Britain Philatelic Society will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a display at the Royal Philatelic Society London on December 10.

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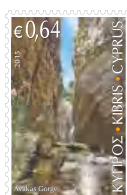
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By Andrew McGavin, Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

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3. Surface Sell. There is an actual name for this – it is called "surface sell" – good material 'floats' on the surface and sells. Less desirable stock sinks so that unless a dealer pays almost nothing to replace his stock then the profit in the business becomes stagnant and bound

in less saleable stock. If only that dealer could move this stock he would have more money to invest in new stock to offer to you.

4. Cover-up. Twenty years ago almost the entire stamp industry spent its time disguising what did not sell – in those days so pernicious were 'unsolds' that it was common practice for one auction house to sell batches of 'unsolds' to another auction where the new auction could present them to (hopefully) different collectors as new lots. 'Passing the Philatelic Parcel' was common practice.

5. E-Bay. Today the philatelic world is almost unrecognisably different. In large part courtesy of the internet. How things have changed. Few 'pass the parcel'. Really active Dealers – these days they **also** sell on eBay – large lots, small lots, all manner of stamps, covers, down to fakes and forgeries – today's equivalent of the Wild West – there's philatelic 'gold' to be mined in those hills ... but Boy – you have to work to find it and sadly 'all that glistens is not gold' – you pays your money and you takes your chance often with little support or recourse. UPA too sells surpluses on eBay backed by support and our guarantee – access eBay links via www.upastampauctions.co.uk

Continued on page 27...

GERMANY 2001 For Sport set in unissued colours

Coming up at auction for the first time, courtesy of Schlegel, was one of modern Germany's rarest items: a mint marginal set of four of the 2001 For Sport charity issue in the unissued colour scheme.

The stamps were originally printed with the horizontal bar in turquoise blue, but the designer, Fritz-Dieter Rothacker, asked for this to be changed to a more violet blue. His request was granted and the stamps were reprinted.

A very small number of the original printing are known to have survived destruction: one sheetlet of 10 of each of the four values, split up into singles.

There is also one used set recorded, which last sold for about £35,000.

**SOLD BY
SCHLEGEL £53,871**



TRINIDAD 1847 Lady McLeod steamship stamp

The latest in Spink's series of sales of the Vestey collection focused on the Caribbean region, with the top price fetched by an unused example of Trinidad's famous 1847 Lady McLeod stamp.

The undenominated adhesive was made available by David Bryce, the owner of the SS Lady McLeod, as a means to prepay the 5c charge for carrying mail on her route between Port of Spain and San Fernando, starting in April 1847.

Catalogued despite not being a government issue, it vies with the Mauritius issue of September that year for the honour of being considered the first postage stamp of the British Empire. It was also one of the world's earliest pictorial stamps.

In fine condition and with good margins, this example caused a stir by exceeding the Stanley Gibbons catalogue value.

SOLD BY SPINK £34,000

UNITED STATES 1945 Unique high-value revenue

Of Siegel's three recent major auctions of United States material, the one yielding by far the highest results was that of the Curtis collection of revenues, with most interest created by rarities among the stock transfer stamps, with their extremely high denominations.

Not surprisingly, top billing went to a fine used stock transfer \$10,000 bright green with the 'Series 1945' overprint, which is the only known example of this particular stamp.

Imperforate along one edge as issued, and with the serial number '3090', it was cancelled both with a purple handstamp and with diagonal cuts.

SOLD BY ROBERT A SIEGEL £30,905



CANADA 1959 St Lawrence Seaway inverts

Brigham's auction offered a rare block of four of Canada's most famous error, the 1959 Opening of the St Lawrence Seaway 5c invert.

This two-colour stamp is sometimes labelled an 'inverted centre' error, although it should more properly be called an 'inverted frame' error, because it occurred when sheets already printed with blue were fed into the press the wrong way round for the printing of red.

Just two sheets of 200 were affected, and by the time the error was noticed many of the stamps had already been sold and used.

Most of the mint copies which survive are singles. It is thought that only 13 blocks exist, and this is one of only two non-marginal blocks.

SOLD BY BRIGHAM £17,441



FALKLAND ISLANDS 1871

Black frank cover

Grosvenor's latest auction included a fine selection of the Falkland Islands and Antarctica, including this 1871 wrapper which forms part of the well-known 'Travis correspondence'.

Sent by George Travis to his mother in Lincolnshire, it bears a clear strike of the so-called 'black frank': the boxed 'Falkland/Paid/Islands' pre-paid handstamp introduced in 1869, nine years before the colony issued adhesive stamps.

Alongside this is a Falkland Islands datestamp of March 30, 1871, and the cover would have been carried on the mail ship *Foam* from Port Stanley to Montevideo in Uruguay, and subsequently on the *SS La Plata* to Southampton.

SOLD BY GROSVENOR £12,000



DENMARK 1855

Rare mixed franking

The highlight of Postiljonen's sale of the Jutlandia collection of classic Denmark was an 1855 cover with an unusual mixed franking of a total of 22-skillings.

This consisted of a single 1851 2rbs blue (Thiele printing) used with a strip of three and a pair of the 1854 4rbs brown (first printing), cancelled with the '1' numeral handstamp of Copenhagen.

The two values were rarely used together, because the 2rbs was originally intended only for local use within the capital, although it was pressed into service as a make-up value for longer-distance mailings after rate changes in 1854.

Cancelled on June 8, 1855, the cover was sent from Copenhagen to Königsberg in Prussia, via Rostock in Mecklenburg.

SOLD BY POSTILJONEN £11,413



ESTONIA 1919

Tête-bêche gutter block

Heinrich Köhler's sale of the Baltica collection of Dr Hubert Schrödinger included all the rarities of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from the 1918-1941 period, and attracted international attention. Many items surpassed their pre-sale estimates, but most amazingly one lot realised 30 times its estimate!

This was a gutter block of 10 of Estonia's 1919 5m yellow and black imperforate definitive, depicting a Viking longship, straddling the two halves of a sheet so that the designs are tête-bêche.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 200, comprising two tête-bêche panes of 100. Before being distributed to post offices, these were usually divided into panes, but for some reason two sheets were never cut, leaving the potential for tête-bêche multiples.

A maximum of 20 multiples could exist, and a maximum of four marginal multiples, so this marginal block of 10 is a wonderful exhibition showpiece.

SOLD BY HEINRICH KÖHLER £5,539



GB 1841

Penny Reds with red Maltese cross

Warwick & Warwick's sale offered this unusual pair of the 1841 Penny Red with red Maltese cross cancellations.

To combat the fraudulent reuse of the new postage stamps, the colour of Great Britain's pioneering 1d value, the Penny Black, was changed to red in February 1841 and the colour of the Maltese cross cancellation from red to black.

Contrary to instructions, some post offices continued to use red ink for a while, but pairs like this are scarce.

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Issue date:

27 November 2015

Eight Christmas stamps telling the story of the Annunciation feature stained glass window panes found in four of Jersey's parish churches.



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Issue Date:

1 December 2015

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Year of the Monkey
5 January 2016**

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Jersey Post

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SG	Plate	SG	Plate	SG	Plate	SG	Plate	SG	Plate
1	1d int black	120.00	105	1.50	180	1.00	51/2 1/2d Plates	SG	115/7 1s Plate 4
2	1d black	107.50	106	0.50	181	0.50	Plate 1	10.00	Plate 5
3	1d grey-black	122.50	107	1.50	182	1.00	Plate 3	10.00	Plate 6
5	2d blue	135.00	108	0.55	183	0.60	62 4d Sm. Garter	55.00	Plate 7
7	1d ex black pl.	17.50	109	0.70	184	0.50	62a 2d blue paper	55.00	Set Plates 4-7
8	1d red-brown	3.00	110	1.80	185	0.60	63 4d Mdm Gtr	55.00	118 2s dull blue
8a	1d blue paper	4.50	111	0.55	186	0.55	64 4d Mdm Gtr	52.50	119 2s deep blue
9	1d pale r-brown	4.75	112	0.55	187	0.50	65 4d Mdm Gtr	65.00	120 2s pale blue
10	1d dp r-brown	5.00	113	2.50	188	2.00	66 4d rose-carm	10.00	122 6d dp chest
12	1d orge-brown	35.00	114	2.50	189	1.40	66a 4d rose	10.00	122a 6d chestnut
13	2d pale blue	14.00	115	0.55	190	1.20	66b 4d Thick paper	25.00	122b 6d pale ch.
14	2d blue	10.00	116	1.80	191	1.40	69 6d deep lilac	12.50	123 6d buff Pl. 11
15	2d deep blue	12.50	117	0.50	192	0.50	70 6d lilac	9.95	123 6d Pl. 12
17	1d Die I	3.00	118	0.50	193	0.50	70Wi 6d Wmk inv	30.00	125 6d grey
18	1d yell-brown	6.00	119	0.50	194	2.00	71 1s deep green	47.50	138 2 1/2d blue ppr
19	2d deep blue	12.50	120	0.50	195	2.00	72 1s green	35.00	139 2 1/2d Plate 1
20	2d pale blue	17.50	121	1.90	196	1.00	73 1s pale green	35.00	Plate 2
21	1d Die II	7.50	122	0.50	197	1.80	73b 1s thick paper	42.50	Plate 3
22	1d Perf 14	8.00	123	0.50	198	1.20	75 3d dp car-rose	55.00	Set Plates 1-3
23	2d Perf 14	32.00	124	0.50	199	1.20	76 3d br car-rose	40.00	141 2 1/2d Plate 3
23a	2d Plate 5	39.00	125	0.50	200	0.50	77 3d pale c-rose	40.00	Plate 4
24	1d Die II	7.50	127	0.55	201	1.00	79 4d bright red	15.00	Plate 5
24a	1d v. blue ppr	15.00	129	1.60	202	1.60	80 4d pale red	11.50	Plate 6
26	1d Perf 16	17.50	130	0.55	203	3.20	81 4d Hair Lines	12.50	Plate 7
27	2d Plate 5	69.00	131	3.20	204	0.50	82 4d do. pale red	11.00	Plate 8
29	1d Lge Cm P14	2.00	132	10.00	205	0.60	83 6d deep lilac	15.00	Plate 9
30	1d brick-red	7.50	133	3.00	206	1.80	84 6d lilac	10.00	Plate 10
32	1d brown-rose	7.50	134	0.50	207	1.80	84b 6d Thick paper	19.50	Plate 11
33	1d orge-brown	7.50	135	5.25	208	3.20	85 6d Hair Lines	17.50	Plate 12
34	2d Plate 5	9.50	136	4.00	209	1.80	85c - - Thick ppr	25.00	Plate 13
35	2d Plate 6	9.00	137	0.55	210	2.40	86 9d bistre	45.00	Plate 14
36	1d White paper	10.00	138	0.50	211	5.75	87 9d straw	42.50	Plate 15
36a	2d Perf 16	60.00	139	3.50	212	2.25	89 1s deep green	32.50	Plate 16
38	1d pale red	1.50	140	0.50	213	2.25	90 1s green	19.50	Plate 17
39	1d pale rose	1.75	141	1.80	214	3.60	92 3d Plate 4	16.00	Set Plates 3-17
40	1d rose-red	1.00	142	4.80	215	3.60	92b 3d Thick paper	18.75	142 2 1/2d Plate 17
40b	1d Res Plates	3.00	143	3.00	216	3.60	93/5 4d Plate 7	10.00	Plate 18
41	1d dp rose-red	1.25	144	4.00	217	1.50	Plate 8	7.50	Plate 19
42	1d Alphabet IV	4.25	145	0.55	218	1.75	Plate 9	7.50	Plate 20
43/4	1d plates:		146	1.20	219	25.00	Plate 10	12.50	Set Plates 17-20
Plate			147	0.60	220	1.50	Plate 11	7.50	143-4 3d Plate 11
71		0.60	148	0.60	221	4.00	Plate 12	7.50	Plate 12
72		0.80	149	1.20	222	14.00	Plate 13	7.50	Plate 14
73		0.60	150	0.50	223	25.00	Plate 14	11.50	Plate 15
74		0.50	151	1.80	224	25.00	Set Plates 7-14	65.00	Plate 16
76		0.50	152	1.10	225	280.00	94Wi 4d Wmk Inv	7.50	Plate 17
78		0.50	153	2.00	Set of plates 71-224	250.00	96/7 6d Plate 5	9.75	Plate 18
79		0.50	154	0.50	45-7 2d Plate 7	9.50	Plate 6	17.50	Plate 19
80		0.50	155	0.55	Plate 8	6.00	98 9d Plate 4	90.00	Plate 20
81		0.55	156	0.50	Plate 9	3.00	98a 9d Thick ppr	110.00	Set Plates 11-20
82		0.80	157	0.50	Plate 12	24.00	101 1s Plate 4	17.50	146-7 6d Plate 13
83		1.50	158	0.50	Plate 13	4.00	101b 1s Thick ppr	27.50	Plate 14
84		0.55	159	0.50	Plate 14	5.00	102/3 3d Plate 4	19.50	Plate 15
85		0.55	160	0.50	Plate 15	5.00	Plate 5	7.50	Plate 16
86		0.80	161	1.40	Set Plates 7-15	57.50	Plate 6	7.50	Plate 17
87		0.50	162	1.40	48/9 1/2d Plates		Plate 7	7.50	Set Plates 13-17
88		2.00	163	0.60	Plate		Plate 8	7.50	148-50 1s Plate 8
89		0.50	164	0.60	1	13.75	Plate 9	7.50	Plate 9
90		0.50	165	0.50	3	3.00	Plate 10	12.50	Plate 10
91		1.20	166	1.20	4	2.25	Set Plates 4-10	65.00	Plate 11
92		0.50	167	0.50	5	1.75	104 6d lilac	10.00	Plate 12
93		0.50	168	1.40	6	1.75	105 6d dp lilac	11.50	Plate 13
94		1.00	169	1.40	8	11.50	106 6d purple	13.50	Set Plates 8-13
95		0.50	170	0.50	9	150.00	107 6d brt violet	12.00	151 1s Plate 13
96		0.50	171	0.50	10	1.75	108 6d dull violet	10.00	152 4d vermillion pl. 15
97		0.70	172	0.50	11	1.75	109 6d mauve Plate 8	9.50	153 4d Plate 15
98		1.20	173	1.80	12	1.75	Plate 9	9.50	Plate 16
99		1.00	174	0.50	13	1.75	104/9 6d Plates 6, 8, 9	27.00	154 4d grey-brown
100		0.75	175	0.70	14	1.75	110 9d straw	32.50	156 8d orange
101		1.80	176	0.55	15	2.75	111 9d pale straw	32.50	157 2 1/2d plate 21
102		0.50	177	0.50	19	6.00	112 10d red-brn	45.00	Plate 22
103		0.70	178	0.70	20	9.50	113 10d pale	47.50	Plate 23
104		1.00	179	0.55	Set of plates 1-20	207.50	114 10d deep	55.00	Set Plates 21-23
									12.00

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My monthly 24 page colour illustrated price list is available to regular clients.





APEX

Public Auction 143

Sunday, 22nd November 2015

Lingfield Park Racecourse, Surrey

Auction Highlights



Lot 537
Great Britain
1840 Rainbow Colour Trial from
State 3 in deep blue on white
wave paper, marginal example.
(Cat. £4,500)
Estimate £1750



Lot 650
Great Britain
1887 Jubilee 6d purple
on rose fine mint with
inverted watermark.
(Cat. £7500)
Estimate £3000



Lot 657
Great Britain
1887 £1 green used with
inverted watermark,
'Registered Queen Victoria St' oval cancels.
(Cat. £12,500)
Estimate £4000



Lot 690
Great Britain
1912 Royal Cypher 2d intense
bright orange in Control Q21
(perf) strip of 3, u/m.
(SG N19[9])
Estimate £2500



Lot 767
Great Britain
1973 Explorers 3p pair
marginal u/m, each with 'Light
orange brown' omitted.
(Cat. £3000)
Estimate £1000



Lot 795
Australia
1915 W6 £2 black and rose
fine mint.
(Cat. £4750)
Estimate £1600



Lot 901
Falkland Islands
1933 Centenary set of 12
values to £1 (complete),
perf Specimen, very fine.
(Cat. £4250)
Estimate £1600

A choice selection of some of the rarities to be offered in our forthcoming November Sale, to be held at Lingfield Park Racecourse. Catalogues will be mailed out by Tuesday, 13th October

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Reimagining the Bible story in vibrant colour



Royal Mail's 2015 Christmas stamps, issued on November 3, feature paintings which tell the traditional biblical story in an impressionistic style, from the Annunciation through to the Nativity and the journey of the Magi.

The 50th set of Christmas stamps (with one having been issued every year since 1966), they follow the policy of alternating

between secular with religious designs.

As usual, the issue comprises self-adhesive counter sheet and booklet stamps, and the same designs in a gummed miniature sheet. However, this year there are eight values, rather than the seven of recent years.

The colourful paintings were commissioned from David Holmes, with art

direction and stamp design by Studio David Hillman. Counter sheets and miniature sheets were printed in gravure by De La Rue, and booklets in gravure by International Security Printers.

2nd class THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to take part in the census, with



the pregnant Mary riding on a donkey and Joseph on foot.

2nd Large THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM
Expanded version of the 2nd class design.

1st class THE NATIVITY
With no room available at the inn, Mary gives birth to Jesus under makeshift shelter and places him in a manger.

1st Large THE NATIVITY
Expanded version of the 1st class design.

£1.00 THE ANIMALS OF THE NATIVITY
Animals are not mentioned in biblical

accounts, but a camel and sheep allude to the Magi and the shepherds who came to pay homage to Jesus

£1.33 THE SHEPHERDS

The first announcement of the birth is made to lowly shepherds tending their flocks, by an angel who appears to them during the night

£1.52 THE THREE WISE MEN

Three learned men (Magi) from the east see a new star in the sky, the Star of Bethlehem, and follow it to the scene of the birth

£2.25 THE ANNUNCIATION

Back at the beginning of the story, the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of the son of God

OTHER PRODUCTS

The miniature sheet contains one of each stamp in gummed form, in se-tenant strips of two and six, with a border illustrating the Star of Bethlehem over the town.

The presentation pack includes seasonal meditations written by Dr Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury who is now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Stamp cards and first day covers are available as usual, as well as the new products which Royal Mail calls 'stamp souvenirs', which are non-personalised first day covers available for 90 days after the issue date.

As usual with a Christmas issue, the 1st class and 2nd class stamps are also sold in self-adhesive booklets of 12. All the stamps are also available in self-adhesive Smilers sheets (see page 23).

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★

Even in an increasingly secular society, the Christmas issue is a well established part of the furniture

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★★★

The paintings are an attractive combination of soft focus and vibrant colour

WOW FACTOR ★★★★★

This is always the most likely special issue of the year to be seen on everyone's mail

PRICES

Set of 8 stamps	£8.96
Miniature sheet	£8.96
Presentation pack	£9.50
Stamp cards	£4.05
First day cover (stamps)	£11.23
First day cover (mini sheet)	£11.23
Retail stamp book (12 x 1st)	£7.56
Retail stamp book (12 x 2nd)	£6.48

NEWS IN BRIEF

➤ As an alternative to the 2015 Christmas stamps, the Madonna & Child 1st class and 2nd class designs of 2013 have been reissued.

➤ The printing of the Long To Reign Over Us miniature sheet is believed to have been contracted out by ISP to Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre (FNMT) in Spain, but this was not made public.

➤ The British postal service is fully in private hands for the first time, after the Government sold its remaining 14% stake in Royal Mail in October.

➤ With all 2015 designs revealed, it is confirmed that Britain is not issuing a Europa stamp this year.

➤ To mark the 50th issue of Christmas stamps, Bradbury has produced a limited-edition set of four A4-size stamp cards depicting all of the previous issues. Each is franked with one of this year's stamps, with a Bethlehem first-day postmark, and the set is priced £59.25. Visit www.bfcd.co.uk

➤ Machan Engineering, the only foundry in the UK manufacturing traditional cast-iron pillar boxes, has closed down. The Falkirk-based firm used to receive 150 orders a year from Royal Mail, but in 2014 got only 20.

➤ Royal Mail is threatening to remove a postbox in Penzance, because of the number of dogs urinating against it. It claims this presents a health-and-safety risk to postmen.

Post & Go images of winter wildlife

This year's seasonal issue of Post & Go self-adhesive machine-vended stamps, released on November 16, is entitled Winter Fur & Feathers and features four animals closely associated with the British winter.

As in 2014, it comprises two designs for 2nd class services and two for 1st class and other services. Unlike last year, the blue security overlay of the 2nd class designs includes the text '2nd class', to guard against them being printed with incorrect values.

The 2nd class stamps depict the mountain hare, which turns from brown to white in a series of winter moults, and the redwing, a winter migrant from the thrush family identifiable by its distinctive coloured flanks.

The other stamps illustrate the red fox, found in a wide range of rural and urban habitats, and the red squirrel, which lives in the coniferous woodlands of Scotland and isolated spots in England.

Designed by Osborne Ross, from illustrations by Robert Gillmor, the base printings are by ISP in gravure, with values and coding added by the vending machine.

Collectors' strips from vending machines comprise six different (non-2nd class) values on alternating red fox and red squirrel designs. The presentation pack has four stamps printed in gravure with 1st class, 1st Large, 2nd class and 2nd Large values.



Slogan postmarks in support of campaigns



Slogan postmarks which have appeared on British mail in recent weeks have included 'Thinking Of You Week, Sending Cards Raises Smiles!' (a Greeting Card Association campaign) from September 21-24, 'The Global Goals For Sustainable Development' (a United Nations campaign) from September 25-October 2, 'Congratulations to Marlon James, Winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize' from October 14-17, 'Get Safe Online Week getsafeonline.org' (a Government campaign) from October 19-24, and 'Stay Well This Winter' (a Public Health England campaign) from October 26-30.

COVER OF THE MONTH



Buckingham Covers commissioned David Holmes, the artist who painted the designs for the stamps themselves, to create complementary artwork for its Christmas first day covers.

This cover for the set of eight individual stamps illustrates a camel in the desert and has the postmark of Christmas Street, Bristol. It is priced £22.40 inc p&p, with signed options available.

Visit www.buckinghamcovers.com

Biblical quotations on Christmas Smilers...

The Christmas 2015 generic Smilers sheet, with an all-over background illustration by David Holmes to complement the stamps, features eight 1st class, eight 2nd class, one £1.00, one £1.33, one £1.52 and one £2.25 values.

Many of the self-adhesive labels carry quotations from the King James version of the Bible.

The generic sheet is priced £15.96, and personalised sheets are available to order from Royal Mail.



...and monkey business on New Year sheet

The fifth in the series of Lunar New Year generic Smilers sheets, which started in 2012, celebrates the Year of the Monkey.

In keeping with previous issues it has 20 1st class Firework stamps accompanied by 20 labels, with a red decorated background.

The border and 10 of the labels show monkeys in paper cut-out style, representing the five elements of water, wood, fire, earth and metal, while the remaining labels have photographs related to Chinese New Year festivities in Britain.

The Year of the Monkey starts on February 8, but the sheet was issued on November 9 to allow time for the stamps to be purchased and used on mail to Asia in advance.



HOT OFF THE PRESS



Don Staddon has the inside line on British stamp printings, post office supplies and developments in postal mechanisation

STAR WARS PRINTING

Unannounced in Royal Mail's advance publicity for the Star Wars issue (November issue, page 22) was the fact that the counter sheet stamps, printed by Cartor, have fluorescent logos visible under ultra-violet light.

There are three different versions: *The Force Awakens* film logo in yellow, or the Alliance starbird or Imperial crest symbols in white.

CHRISTMAS PRINTING

The Christmas stamps were printed by De La Rue in sheets of 50. All cylinder numbers are printed as D1, D1, D1, phosphor D1 on the lower left sheet margins.

Printing dates, as shown in the upper right margins, are August 11 for the 2nd class value, July 27 for 2nd Large, July 2 for 1st class, July 24 for 1st Large, July 13 for the £1.00, July 16 for the £1.33, July 20 for the £1.52, and July 21 for the £2.15.

There is a central phosphor band on the 2nd class values, and two vignettted bands on the other stamps. In all cases the date '2015' is reversed out of the phosphor.

CHRISTMAS BOOKLET PRINTINGS

The Christmas booklets of 12 x 1st class and 12 x 2nd class stamps, printed by ISP, show cylinder numbers W1 x 4, phosphor W1. The colours are an excellent match with the sheet stamps printed by De La Rue.

DEFINITIVE BOOKLET PRINTINGS

The cylinder numbers in booklets of 12 x 1st class and 12 x 2nd class definitives are in a smaller size on 2015 printings. Whereas they used to be clearly visible on the white tab protruding on the right, they are now hidden from view when the booklet is closed.

POST & GO PRINTINGS

The Poppy design introduced in 2014 is available again from Post & Go machines from October 19 until November 16. Reprinted with the year code '15' in the security overlay, it is available from both post office and Royal Mail machines.

POST & GO LOCATION IDENTIFIERS

Post & Go stamps from the four Royal Navy museum sites had their location-identifiers clarified from October 19. 'The NMRN' changed to 'Royal Navy', 'The RMM' to 'Royal Marines', 'The FAAM' to 'Fleet Air Arm' and 'The RNSM' to 'RN Submarine'.

POSTAGE DUE

On October 5, Royal Mail changed its structure of fees for underpaid postage, to simplify the process of working out the correct charge.

The previous charge of a £1 handling fee plus the postage due has been replaced by flat fees of £1.50 for an underpaid letter (or £2 where nothing at all has been paid) and £3 for an underpaid small parcel.

G.B. COMMEMORATIVES

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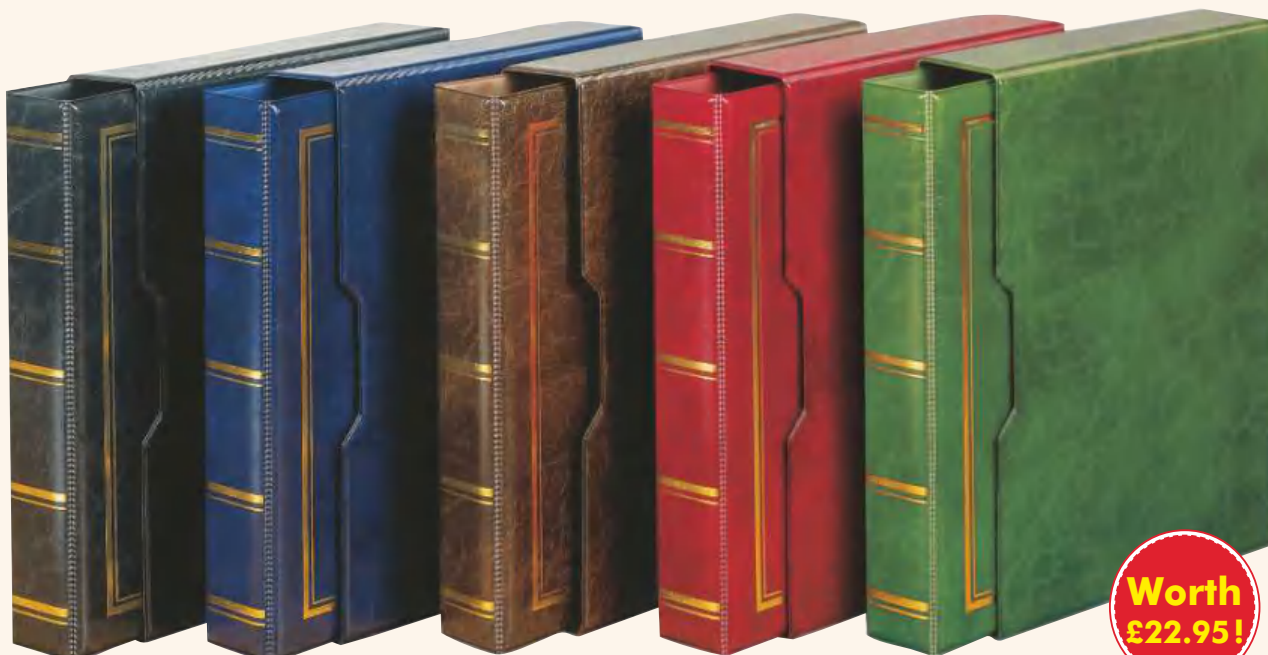
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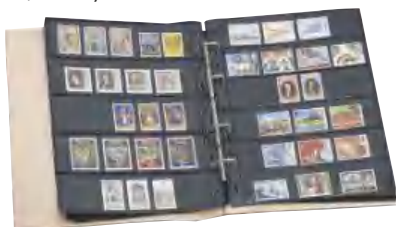
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...Continued from page 13

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Letters

GET IN TOUCH

These pages are devoted to giving you the opportunity to have your say. Whether you want to praise or complain, suggest or advise, add information or correct it, or just get something off your chest, we'd love to hear from you.

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The Editor reads all letters, but is unable to answer them all personally. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

Too late now to consider replacing the Machin

John Crace asked whether Queen Elizabeth II's achievement of becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch was the perfect opportunity to change the design of definitive stamps (October issue, page 35). I think it's too late.

The Queen is 89 years old. She has said many times that she has no plans to abdicate, but she is not likely to be with us for another 30 years.

For that reason alone, I feel that the Machin design should be retained. After all, the accession of the next monarch will automatically require the issue of an all-new definitive series.

Mike Dornbrock, Cedar Falls, Iowa, USA

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Definitive design is past its sell-by date

In response to John Crace's Devil's Advocate column (October issue, page 35), I think a new Great Britain definitive design is long overdue.

Some people go into raptures about the Machin series, but I was never impressed by what I consider a singularly uninspired and boring design.

It has no inscription to say what it is for, and in some cases not even a denomination. Security features (built into the Penny Black in 1840) had to be added as an afterthought. Worse still, pictorial definitives were abolished on the altar of dull uniformity.

An editorial comment in *Stamp Collecting* magazine, published in the early days of the Machin on July 18, 1968, says it all: 'Nearly 130 years after the Penny Black, one would have assumed great advances in graphic design...but instead we are left with a portrait of the Queen plus a value indication. How are the mighty fallen!'

The Machin series is one reason why my Great Britain collection stops in 1968. It is well past its sell-by date, and I cannot comprehend why Royal Mail has stubbornly stuck with it for so long. Other have interesting definitives, even pictorial ones, so why can't we?

C C Thornburn, Birmingham



Exotic fruit can be posted just as well as domestic vegetables!

I was amused to read the news story about the potato sent through the British postal system as a postcard (November issue, page 25). It reminded me of a similar practice from my time in the Royal Air Force.

When I was stationed at RAF Gan, the

former British airbase in Addu Atoll in the Maldives, it was common practice for servicemen to send coconuts home to their children in Britain.

This was achieved simply by writing the address on the shell with a marker pen,

affixing a British stamp and handing the item in to the British Forces Post Office.

As far as I know, all the coconuts were safely received at home, causing a lot of merriment.

Brian Field, Billericay

SOAPBOX

What can you expect to see on a visit to the Blue Penny Museum in Mauritius? During a stay on the island, Michelle Deans went along to find out

Mauritius is a small island with enormous philatelic fame, as the birthplace of some of the world's rarest and most famous postage stamps.

A visit to this Indian Ocean nation gave me the opportunity to visit the museum which was inaugurated in 2001 to showcase its history and art, and which houses two of the greatest treasures in philately.

Located near the heart of in the capital, Port Louis, the Blue Penny Museum is curiously named (because the legendary 'Blue Mauritius' was a 2d value), but is easily accessible from the Caudan Waterfront shopping centre, well laid out and very informative.

Overall it is fairly dark inside, but with well-lit displays.

PHILATELIC TREASURES

The 1847 'Post Office' 1d red and 2d blue, the first postage stamps produced by a British colony, were printed in limited numbers and in use for less than a year, before being replaced by the similar 'Post Paid' issue in 1848.

Only two mint and 13 used examples of the 1d red survive, and four mint and eight used of the 2d blue. The mint examples on display in the museum were bought back for Mauritius by a business consortium at auction in 1993, at a cost of US\$2.2m.

The stamps are on display at the back of the upper level of the museum, in a wall-mounted glass case. They are illuminated for only 10 minutes of every hour throughout the day, in order to preserve them. At all other times, only replicas are illuminated alongside.



ABOVE: The Blue Penny Museum in Port Louis, Mauritius, established in 2001



ABOVE: Mauritius 1847 'Post Office' 1d red, one of the world's rarest stamps



ABOVE: Postage jug of the kind suspended from trees by 17th-century ships' captains as primitive postboxes



ABOVE: The museum's display of Mauritius postal history includes original 19th-century covers and enlarged images of important stamps and postmarks

For the untrained eye it can be difficult to tell the genuine stamps from the replicas, although I noticed a difference in pixelation.

A display nearby relates how the first

postal services operated in Mauritius. The first recorded letters from the island date from 1601, when Dutch ships visited. In the days before colonisation, ships' captains used to leave messages in sealed jugs suspended upside-down in the trees around Port Louis harbour!

MARITIME MEMORIES

Also on the top level there are several detailed wall panels covering maritime history, and models of the ships which visited Port Louis when it was a busy harbour exporting the likes of sugar, spices and tea.

A striking feature is the illuminated astrological ceiling, reminiscent of days gone by when ships were navigated by watching the movement of the stars.

FICTIONAL HEROES

The lower level of the museum concentrates on the fictional story of Paul and Virginie, from the famous tragic novel of the same name by the French author Jacques-Henri Bernardin de Saint-Pierre.

First published in 1788, and set partly in Mauritius under French rule, the story of these two lovers is widely considered a masterpiece of world literature and is forever associated with the island.

On display are various illustrated editions of the novel and several paintings inspired by it.

The couple are also captured beautifully in a larger-than-life-size marble statue sculpted by Prosper d'Epina in 19th-century classicist style.

Michelle Deans

Why would anyone want to buy banal philatelic products such as the Star Wars issue?

Sir Kenneth Clark was right of course, when he warned in the 1960s about the potential 'cigarette-card triviality and banality' of populist commemorative stamps (November issue, page 4).

Let's be honest, modern commemoratives serve to enrich postal administrations and government treasuries rather than the hobby of philately.

So the Star Wars issue comes as no

surprise to me, except that this time Royal Mail has really excelled itself. A large set of stamps flagrantly devoted to promoting an American film franchise? It beggars belief.

I cannot imagine why anyone buys this stuff. Star Wars fans may be in their element, but will they ever buy another stamp issue after this one?

Andrew Martin, Weymouth



Surely these stamps are perfect for attracting young collectors to the hobby?

Some of your recent correspondents have regretted an absence of foresight on the part of Royal Mail, in failing to attract youthful collectors to carry the flag for the future.

Surely, then, isn't the much-lambasted Star Wars commemorative issue to be welcomed, as the perfect introduction to a superb hobby for any child?

I am certain there will be many big-eyed children making pleas to their parents for the chance to own at least one of the series of products. My grandson will be.

David Wright, Silsden

A week after the issue date, our contact at the philatelic service at Tallents House told us the staff were struggling to meet a large backlog of orders due to demand for the Star Wars issue. - Ed

Philatelic auctioneer is a television star for a day

As the proprietor of South West Philatelic Auctions, out of the blue I got a phone call from a television production company, Boomerang. Would I like to appear on its *Posh Pawn* show as a stamp expert?

Why not, I thought. I had never seen the show myself, but my parents have. They were more excited than I was!

I had to travel from Devon to Penzance in Cornwall for filming, and they arranged my travel by train. I met the film crew in Penzance, and we walked down to the antique shop where we would be filming.

First they wanted to film me on my own, then walking into the shop and finally

meeting the pawnbroker and explaining about the stamps. Most of this was repeated half a dozen times. It's not all glamorous filming for television!

The stamps in question were all British, from the Victorian period, including amongst others an unusual £5 orange.

All in all, my day as a television star was an interesting and enjoyable experience. You can see the end result on Channel 4 in November or December, although I have not yet been advised of the date of the broadcast.

Richard Mills, South West Philatelic Auctions, Ivybridge

A struggle to get compensation for cover damaged in the post...

I have more evidence of the way in which Royal Mail's attitude to collectors has deteriorated since it was privatised.

I bought a large Victorian registered cover from a trustworthy dealer on eBay, and when it arrived it was in an 'ambulance bag', with a note apologising for the damage that had been caused in transit. The cardboard packaging it was sent in had been folded in half.

I made a claim, telling Royal Mail that the cover could be devalued by up to 50%. They said they would recompense me, but they wanted evidence of its value.

I sent photographs of the item and its packaging, as I did not want to risk it being damaged further by posting it again. But I pointed out that I would know my true loss only if I sold it, which I don't want to do.

The matter is still unresolved, so I am now writing to the Escalated Complaints Resolution Team.

Ray Barton, via e-mail

...or get letters collected on the day they're posted

The plate on my nearest pillar box now reads 'Last collection 9am, Monday to Friday'. This means that unless I get to the box before breakfast, my post will not be picked up until the next day.

A short car journey would take me to a box with a later collection time, but that is really not the point. It's just another example of Royal Mail failing to consider the convenience of its customers.

Dave Sandon, Haywards Heath

HOT TOPICS

You can debate the philatelic issues of the day, and exchange opinions and information with other collectors, in the Forums section on our website. Visit www.stampmagazine.co.uk



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MAY THE FARCE BE WITH YOU

Royal Mail devoted a total of 18 stamps to the Star Wars film franchise, and none at all to this year's Europa theme. Has it crossed over to the dark side?

In October, Royal Mail issued a set of 12 (count them) commemorative stamps, and a further six-stamp miniature sheet, devoted to the Star Wars films. Some might call that overkill.

World-changing historical events such as the Battle of Waterloo and Magna Carta did not get that many stamps when they were commemorated earlier this year. The Duke of Wellington wasn't even deemed worthy of portrayal on a stamp.

Yet in this latest set there are 1st class values depicting a gallery of science-fiction characters, even those minor ones that you didn't remember you'd forgotten.

Naturally, the stamps themselves were just the beginning. You could also buy a presentation pack, stamp cards, two different first day covers, three different medal covers, four different 'stamp sets', a generic 'collector's sheet', four different personalised sheets and three different framed sets. If you were totally insane, you could fork out £99 for an X-Wing Bundle, whatever that might be.

Oh, and it's not over yet. A prestige stamp book will follow in mid-December...

If any further proof were needed that the Royal Mail stamp programme exists purely as a commercial operation to relieve collectors of every spare penny, this was it. But we knew that anyway. The Star Wars issue is merely the venality of the organisation taken to its logical extreme.

Indeed, I would argue that the most disturbing aspect of Royal Mail's new issue policy is to be found in a stamp it hasn't released.

Europa stamps were first issued in 1956 to promote cultural ties between European postal administrations, and have become a symbol of

commercial integration within the continent. More than 40 members of PostEurop issued a stamp on this year's common Europa theme of children's toys. They ranged from Spain to Russia and San Marino to Armenia. But not Great Britain.

It's not as if Royal Mail needed to go the whole hog and issue 18 stamps. One would have been sufficient. So why has it chosen to ignore the Europa project?

There are two possible explanations, and neither reflects well on the company.

The first is that it thinks Europa is just too trivial to bother with, and that the marginal costs of designing and producing one extra stamp aren't worth it.

Whilst it's true that a stamp featuring a hobby horse, for example, might not get the public's pulse racing quite as



THE AUTHOR
John Crace is a GB collector specialising in early booklet panes, and a newspaper columnist

fast as a computer-generated image of a Star Wars spaceship, there are some commemoratives that are important enough to be issued regardless, in this case to demonstrate the British postal service's commitment to working closely with other European agencies.

The more disturbing explanation is that Royal Mail somehow imagines that the Europa issue is a political hot potato, given that a referendum on Britain's continued membership of the European Union is due sometime in the next two years.

Let's be clear here. PostEurop is not a political issue, it's just a collective of postal agencies acknowledging their close ties. It is this kind of international cooperation which has ensured that sending a letter or parcel abroad is no longer a remarkable event, and it will be required just as much in the digital age.

Even if Royal Mail worried that issuing a Europa stamp would somehow imply that it endorsed the 'stay in' campaign, that would be idiotic logic. By the same reasoning, not producing a Europa issue could surely be taken as a sign that it endorses the 'get out' campaign!

Royal Mail will still be part of PostEurop, regardless of whether Britain remains part of the EU. So why miss an opportunity to support an organisation which can be of long-term benefit to the company commercially?

Perhaps it is pinning all its hopes on Luke Skywalker coming to its rescue? ■



ABOVE: Intergalactic warfare is all very well, if you like that kind of thing, but should it come at the expense of pan-European postal cooperation?

'The Star Wars issue is the venality of Royal Mail taken to its logical extreme, but perhaps the most disturbing aspect of new issue policy is to be found in a stamp it hasn't released'

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you agree with John Crace that Great Britain ought to issue stamps on the Europa theme? Or doesn't it matter?
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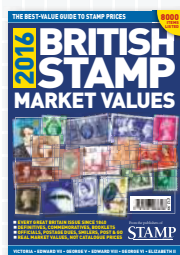
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The closing date for entries is December 10, 2015, and the first correct answer drawn from our postbag after that date will win the book. Good luck!

September's winner



The Spot The Stamp winner from the September issue is D Baker from Ferndown, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (left) as the 26p value from the 1991 World Student Games & Rugby World Cup set, illustrating an athlete hurdling.

COMPETITION WINNERS Bees presentation pack

In our September issue, we offered you the chance to win a presentation pack of the Bees issue, courtesy of Royal Mail.

We asked you what is the name of the method by which bees communicate the location of pollen and nectar, and the answer was the waggle dance.

The 12 lucky winners whose correct answers were drawn at random were G Middleton from St Davids, Donna Parris from Rochester, Nick Hervey from London, G A Kirkwood from Littlehampton, Raymond Adams from Barrow-in-Furness, D Ifan from Caernarvon, Les Harris from Newton Abbot, Fred Foster from Coventry, Thomas Fotheringham from Launceston, S C Cooper from Sandown, Mick Murphy from Uckfield, and K Mitchell from Evesham.

Congratulations to you all. Prizes will be posted out shortly.



WIN



a Christmas presentation pack



We have a presentation pack of the Christmas stamp issue to give away to each of 12 lucky winners, courtesy of Royal Mail.

The set of eight self-adhesive stamps and a gummed miniature sheet is based on attractive and colourful specially commissioned

paintings by David Holmes (see page 18).

To enter, simply answer the question below, fill in the coupon and send it to the address shown.

The closing date is December 10, 2015, and the winners will be drawn at random after that date.

QUESTION

In which year were Christmas stamps first issued for Great Britain?

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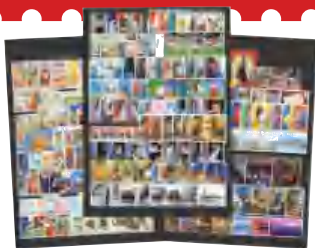
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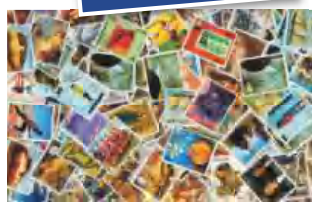
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Larger than life

It is 50 years since the death of the much-loved Queen Salote of Tonga, whose legacy included some of the most extraordinary stamps and covers to emerge from a British protectorate



■ Report by John Winchester

On the 50th anniversary of her death, Queen Salote of Tonga is still remembered around the world as a flamboyant figure, the epitome of the 'Friendly Islands', whose cheerful disposition struck a note of optimism in years of austerity.

She is also revered as a unifying figure in peacetime and wartime, and the moderniser of a remote 177-island Polynesian archipelago which had retained its sovereignty through the colonial age but had previously made little impact on the rest of the world.

A significant part in its modernisation during her reign was played by philately, as Tonga first made a name for itself among postal history collectors and then placed itself at the forefront of a revolution in stamp production.

Troubled childhood

The Queen who would unite a divided kingdom had an inauspicious start to life.

Her father, King George II, who had recently been widowed, almost provoked a civil war by marrying Queen Lavinia in 1899 in defiance of his advisors, although the match was an attempt to secure the loyalty of rival dynastic chiefs.

Even the production of a Royal Wedding commemorative stamp did not go smoothly, with some examples of the overprint on the existing 1d definitive carrying an '1889' error of date.

Under pressure from tribal chiefs to produce a male heir, Lavinia managed only to give birth to a daughter, Salote Mafile'o Pilolevu Tupou, on March 13, 1900, before dying from tuberculosis in 1902.

Unexpected accession

Celebrations after Salote's birth were muted, not least because she

RIGHT: 2½d top value from Tonga's 1938 set commemorating the 20th anniversary of Queen Salote's Accession



was not expected to accede to the throne. She was kept out of the limelight in the Royal Palace at Nuku'alofa during her early years, and despatched to New Zealand for her education when her father remarried in 1909.

Her new stepmother later gave birth to two more girls, but no male heir, so Salote was brought back to Tonga at the end of 1914 to study her country's culture and history.

King George's reign was declining into chaos but, in an uncharacteristically astute move, he arranged for Crown Princess Salote to be married to Prince Viliami Tungi Mailefihi, whose lineage from two major Tongan dynasties would offset concerns over her own pedigree. The wedding took place in September 1917.

Within a year the King was dead,



ABOVE: 1899 overprint celebrating the wedding of Salote's parents (with the initials 'T' for King George Tuafa'ahau and 'L' for Queen Lavinia) with the '1889' error of date

RIGHT: Growing up out of the public eye and educated in New Zealand, Salote was not expected to accede to the throne



killed by the Spanish flu pandemic. Suddenly Tonga found itself with a Queen regnant for the first time. At the tender age of 18, Salote was installed as the 21st Tu'i Kanakupolu (chief of her dynasty) on October 9, 1918, as a prelude to her Coronation as Queen Salote Tupou III of Tonga (the third monarch of the Tupou dynasty) in the Royal Chapel two days later.

First definitives

British printer De La Rue was contracted to supply definitive stamps for the new monarch, starting with a 2d value issued in April 1920. Further denominations followed, of 2½d and 5d in 1921, 7½d, 10d and 1s in 1922, and finally 1½d in 1935.

These used the same frame as the 1897 George II design, with its decorative plants and the country name inscribed as 'Toga', but with a portrait of Salote substituted in the central oval vignette.

Recess-printed, they made for an attractive set, especially when printed in two colours, and later colour changes, re-engraved dies and provisional surcharges make this a very collectable series.

For other denominations, the 1897 pictorial series illustrating the coat of arms, island views and assorted flora and fauna, already 25 years old, remained in service. Also recess-printed by De La Rue, they were reissued with a Multiple Script CA watermark replacing the original Tortoises watermark in 1942-49.



Tin can mail

Meanwhile, a very particular aspect of Tongan philately was gaining the attention of collectors worldwide.

The story of the tin can mail of Niuafo'ou, an almost inaccessible island in the far north of the kingdom, had begun in 1882, when the coconut plantation manager William Travers needed to find a way to communicate with his company in Australia. In the absence of a safe harbour for ships, he requested that incoming letters be placed in a sealed biscuit tin and dropped into the sea by passing vessels, with an alerting hoot from

ABOVE: The first Queen Salote definitives were recess-printed by De La Rue in 1920, the top value being the 1s black and red-brown

EARLY TONGA

1822 The first letters to emerge from Tonga are those of Wesleyan missionaries.

1885 The kingdom's first post office is established, initially using Fiji stamps.

1886 Tonga's first stamps, carrying the portrait of the new King George I, are printed in New Zealand.

1890s Tonga becomes known for a plethora of provisional surcharges, and their many varieties.

1897 British printer De La Rue creates an eye-catching recess-printed pictorial issue, on which the country name reverts to the local spelling 'Toga'.

1909 Collectors in Britain are aided by the publication of *Postage Stamps of Tonga* by Fred Melville.

1930 Distinguished philatelist Stanley Phillips writes that 'If I were asked to name one country in the world that is getting the least attention in proportion to its deserts, I should unhesitatingly vote for Tonga.'



ABOVE: 1886 George I 2d definitive



ABOVE: 1896 1½d on 7½d on 2d provisional overprint

their siren. A strong swimmer would then be despatched to collect this, dodging sharks and sometimes battling against tides for up to six hours.

In 1928, the idea was turned into a philatelic money-spinner by a German trader named Walter Quensell, who began to attract passing cruise liners by offering their passengers the chance to send home quirky souvenirs in the form of tin can mail covers bearing a variety of exotic cachets.

Quensell styled himself the Tin Can Mail Man of the South Seas, or the Tin Can Canoe Mail Man after the Queen decreed that outrigger canoes must be introduced as a safety measure in 1931, following the death of a swimmer in a shark attack.

Over a period of 26 years he endorsed one and half million letters, until a volcanic eruption forced the evacuation of Niuafu'ou in 1946, and these still have quite a philatelic following today.

The people's Queen

A larger-than-life character, 6ft 3in tall and with a reported weight of up to 20 stone, Salote gradually won the respect and loyalty of her people.

She was politically astute, using fears of annexation by Britain to bind together a country made unstable by dynastic rivalries. She was a unifying force, bringing together Tonga's two competing Methodist churches.

To help her country develop and prosper, she increasing spending on education and public health, and encouraged the diversification of crops and the growth of tourism. Moreover she was evidently patriotic, helping to boost her people's pride in their culture by backing the mapping of prehistoric archaeological sites.



ABOVE: Some values in the venerable 1897 pictorial definitive series, issued during the reign of King George II, remained in use through much of Queen Salote's reign. Among them were the 3d black and yellow-green, depicting the prehistoric trilith at Haamonga, and the 5s black and brown-red, with a scenic view of Vavau Harbour

Halfway through her reign, she had to deal with personal tragedy and respond to national peril simultaneously.

In July 1941, her consort (and Prime Minister) Prince Viliami died, leaving her three sons without a father. Five months later,

Tonga followed Britain and the United States in declaring war on Japan, in defiance of the latter's apparent plans for the conquest of the Pacific Ocean.

Sensitive leadership was required, as an amicable American occupation of Tonga followed in



ABOVE & RIGHT: The tin can mail of the Tongan island of Niuafu'ou gained worldwide fame from 1928-46, conveyed between ship and shore initially by swimmers (using hibiscus poles for buoyancy) and later by outrigger canoes



DID YOU KNOW?

Tonga is the only Pacific nation to have retained its monarchical government, after Hawaii and Tahiti relinquished theirs.

Having retained its neutrality throughout the 19th century, it signed a Treaty of Friendship with Britain on May 19, 1900, becoming a British protectorate but retaining its sovereignty. Protection status ended in 1970.



ABOVE: 1937 cover from Niuafu'ou to Australia, franked with Tonga 1/2d and 2d definitives, and emblazoned with a range of colourful tin can mail cachets



ABOVE: First day cover for the Queen Salote's 50th Birthday set of three issued on November 1, 1950, registered from Nuku'alofa to the USA



LEFT: Philatelic first day cover for the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship with Great Britain set of six issued on July 2, 1951

1942, the country become an important allied staging point for shipping and air transport. Two Tongan contingents, numbering about 2,000 troops in all, fought in the Solomon Islands in 1943, but the islands themselves emerged from the conflict unscathed.

Landmark commemoratives

In October 1938 the 20th anniversary of Salote's accession was celebrated with a commemorative issue of three two-colour stamps showing her in full coronation regalia, recess-printed by De La Rue.

The same design was reissued in January 1944 to mark her Silver Jubilee, but this time there were five values and the tablet at the base was inscribed '1918-1943' rather than '1918-1938'.

When the Queen reached the age of 50, in 1950, the cheerful official portrait photographs were used to create a birthday commemorative set of three, printed in photogravure by Waterlow.

The same printers were re-engaged the following year to

produce six stamps marking the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship between Great Britain and Tonga, this time printed by recess. All of the designs carried symbols representing both

countries, in the form of maps, arms, crowns, flags or boats.

Perhaps reflecting Tonga's enhanced reputation around the world, the country name on all stamps had reverted from the local spelling 'Toga' to the international spelling 'Tonga' from 1949.

Queen meets Queen

The warm relationship between Britain and Tonga was demonstrated, and indeed enhanced, in 1953.

Making her one and only journey to Europe for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, on June 2, 1953, Salote won many admirers by riding to the ceremony at Westminster Abbey in an open carriage, accompanied by the Sultan of Kelantan.

In the pouring rain, she had no thought of taking shelter and remained the epitome of cheerfulness, smiling and waving to the vast crowds lining the route.

Six months later Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip were able to return the compliment, visiting Tonga as part of their six-month round-the-world tour. There was no commemorative stamp issue, but various souvenir covers can be found that were franked on the day, December 19, 1953.

Lull before the storm

In between times, Tonga's first new definitive series for 56 years was issued on July 1, 1953.

'Tonga's new definitive series in 1953 was its first for 56 years. Its 14 recess-printed values depicted many elements of island life in fine style'



ABOVE: Designs in the 1953 definitive series included a view of Lifuka in the Ha'apai group on the 2s sage-green and brown

RIGHT: The 1s blue and black featured a map of the Tonga Islands

Recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson (with the exception of the £1 top value, which had a recess-printed frame around a lithographed centre), its 14 values depicted many elements of island life in fine style, from the post office in Nuku'alofa to the aerodrome at Fua'amotu, and from the glamour of the Royal Palace to shore-fishing with a throw-net.

In 1961 a set of five printed by Harrisons marked the 75th anniversary of the Tongan Postal Service, including a stamp-on-stamp design depicting the first issue of 1886, and in 1963 Tonga took part in the Commonwealth's Freedom From Hunger omnibus issue, with a single stamp using Michael Goaman's common design.

Conventionally printed in photogravure, these commemoratives gave no hint that Tonga was preparing a stamp issue that would send shock waves around the philatelic world.

Printing revolution

The British printer Walsall had been experimenting with printing lithographed and embossed stamps onto gold foil, and then die-cutting them to unconventional shapes rather than perforating them. This new design concept was very much in step with the mood of the 1960s, and the first country to take it up was Tonga.

As it happened, it had the perfect reason to do so. The first ever Polynesian gold coinage had been issued in 1962, and a set of commemorative stamps was planned for 1963. Gold-foil embossing in a circular shape would enable a faithful reproduction of the coins' designs, comprising Tonga's coat of arms and two different portraits of Queen Salote.

A set of 13 denominations was issued on June 17, 1963, in three different sizes: a modest diameter for regular postage, an intermediate size for air mail, and a very large diameter (more than 3in, or about 8cm) for the highest values.

The philatelic world was bemused, and divided. Many derided these huge, gaudy stamps as gimmicky, and nicknamed them the 'beer mat' issue; others believed they pointed the way to an exciting new future for stamp



ABOVE: Queen Salote charmed the crowds at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953, waving from an open carriage (shared with the Sultan of Kelantan) despite the rain



RIGHT: Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh in turn visited Queen Salote in Nuku'alofa in December 1953 as part of their world tour

'A major part in Tonga's modernisation during Queen Salote's reign was played by philately, especially in the mid-1960s'



RIGHT: Royal Visit souvenir cover of December 19, 1953, bearing two 1d definitives illustrating the Royal Palace



LEFT & ABOVE: The First Gold Coinage of Polynesia issue of 1963 comprised 13 gold-foil embossed stamps, die-cut into circular shapes in three different sizes



ABOVE & LEFT: The 1964 Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Women's Association Meeting prompted a set of eight die-cut in the shape of a heart or an outline map of Tongatapu island

commemorating the Pan-Pacific South-East Asia Woman's Association Meeting in Nuku'alofa, with four surface-mail values in the shape of a heart bearing a portrait of Queen Salote, and four airmail values cut to the shape of the main island of Tongatapu. These have been dubbed the 'hearts and boots' set.

More embossed and free-form stamps were to follow, and self-adhesive printings from 1969 onwards, although these were to be the products of a new reign.

End of an era

Queen Salote's health had deteriorated fast, as diabetes and cancer took their toll. In November 1965 she was flown to New Zealand for hospital treatment, but

design and production.

They certainly brought Tonga to the attention of collectors once again, although their collectability has been impaired by the fact that the gold foil printing is susceptible to oxidation, and many of the stamps have shown signs of deterioration over time.

They might have been a gimmick, but they were by no means a one-off. A second foil embossed issue appeared in 1964,

her condition worsened and she died in Auckland on December 16, aged 65.

Her funeral in Tonga was attended by 50,000 mourners. In accordance with ancient tradition, her body was not permitted to pass through a gateway, so the total of 108 pallbearers carried her coffin over any walls on the route to the Royal Tombs.

Some of the values in the 1964 'hearts and boots' set were overprinted with an 'In Memoriam' inscription and her dates, as she was succeeded by her son as King Taufa'ahau IV.

It was the end of a golden era for Tonga, even as the nation's quirky stamp issues were entering a brave new world. ■



ABOVE: A 1961 set commemorating 75 years of the Tongan Postal Service, showing a Douglas DC-4 aircraft carrying incoming mail on the 1s, was one of the last conventional issues before the country's stamps went radical

DID YOU KNOW?

It was the British explorer Captain James Cook, who made three visits during his voyages of discovery in 1773-77, who christened the Tongan archipelago 'the Friendly Islands'.

He might have been less gushing in his praise for the welcome he received, had he known that the Tongan chief Finau was hatching a plot to kill him and his crew, before looting his ships, *Resolution* and *Discovery*.

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GB SPECIAL CHARITY MIX. A well balanced on paper Charity mix covering Defins, Commems, H. Value Commems, H. Value Defins, Pre-decimal, Wildings & Pre QEII. Covers all periods. 1 lb £12.00, 2 lbs £22.00.

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GREAT BRITAIN OFF PAPER COMMENS NO XMAS. Previously included Xmas, we can now supply without so the rarer Commems only. Wealth of variety from KGV1 to 2011, includes some high values. Approx 5000 stamps to 1 lb weight. ¼ lb £22.00, ½ lb £42.00, 1 lb £80.00.

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OVERSEAS FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH CHARITY MIXTURE. With over 120 Charity sources in this country it is not surprising that this is the ultimate mixture of Foreign & Commonwealth stamps essentially on paper. Enormous variety and mostly modern as it is collected from offices on a day to day basis. Many h. values as many are Air mail values and a lot will never be seen in approval books! 1 lb £30.00, 2 lbs £55.00, 5 lbs £125.00.

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AUSTRALIA. On paper charity mix, very modern up to 2015 with dream variety, many Commems and high values, collected from a school-teacher in the Outback. Approx. 2500 stamps / 1 lb. 1 lb £16.00, 2 lbs £30.00.

CANADA. Sold out before, we have been fortunate to get fresh stocks from the increasingly difficult country. A colourful on paper charity mixture from the Canadian Save the Children Fund of Commems, Defins, Large Pictorials and high values. 1 lb £20.00, 2 lbs £39.00.

NEW ZEALAND. On Paper charity mixture with Commems and higher values includes difficult to find modern. Supplied to us exclusively by a N.Z Charity. Approx. 2500 stamps / 1lb. ½ lb £11.00, 1 lb £20.00.

U.S.A. An on paper charity mixture with stupendous variety. There can't be many mixtures so attractive and with such good count. Approx count 3500 to 4000 stamps. Per 1lb £16.00, 2lbs £30.00.

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CHANNEL ISLES & ISLE OF MAN. An On Paper mixture of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and I.O.M containing a wealth of variety, strong in Commems, Booklets, Greetings & h. values. ½ lb £18.00, 1lb £35.00.

U.S.A COMMENS. Commems no Xmas, great variety, much modern. ½ lb £25.00, 1 lb £48.00.

SPECIAL OFFER No.3: Buy 1 lb Ireland Charity & ½ lb Ireland Commems for the discounted price of £45. List price £56.

IRELAND COMMENS. Includes very modern and rare! ¼ lb £21.00, ½ lb £40.00.

IRELAND CHARITY. On paper. This emanates from convents throughout the Republic, is mostly modern with a wealth of Commems. Price £16.50 / lb.

SPECIAL OFFER NO. 4: Buy 1 lb World, 1 lb British Commonwealth and 1 lb W. Europe Scoop for the discounted price of £130. List price £150.00.

WORLD SCOOP. An Off paper mix scooped from our oddments tub. Emanating from Charities, Auctions, personal collections etc. You will find high Cat (please tell us when you do) & many additions for your collection. Each 1 lb lot is over 7000 stamps, costing around ½ p each. ½ lb £18.00, 1 lb £35.00, 5 lbs £155.00.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SCOOP. Sold out over the last 8 months, we can now supply more of our popular Off paper mixture covering old Empire & modern Commonwealth. Several clients found stamps cataloguing £10 to £50 each. No promises but with at least 7,000 stamps/1lb you'll have great fun sorting. ½ lb £31.00, 1 lb £60.00.

WEST EUROPE SCOOP. An Off paper mixture of small and large stamps with much earlier material. Many better and unusual values. In great demand as our interests in the EEC grow. Approx. 10,000 stamps to 1 lb costing around ½ p each. Price ½ lb £28.00, 1 lb £55.00.

NEW JAPAN COMMENS. A great off paper mixture of Commemoratives only. Much modern with approximately 700 stamps per 2 oz at around 3p per stamp!! 2 oz £23.00, 1/4 lb £45.00.

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Economic realism

Canada's higher values of 1893 portrayed Queen Victoria in a very different light from the earlier definitives, but the 'widow's weeds' look could be achieved on a budget

■ Report by John Winchester

Since the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, all its postal requirements had been served by the 'Large Queen' and 'Small Queen' definitive series. However, it had become clear that denominations that peaked at 15c were inconvenient for parcels, especially to distant destinations.

It was an omission acknowledged in 1892 by the Postmaster-General, Sir Adolphe-Philippe Caron, when he ordered two new denominations. A value of 20c would cover the cost of sending a parcel of up to 1lb in weight to Britain, and one of 50c would cover a weight of up to 2lb to the Far East.

The British American Bank Note Company in Ottawa was commissioned to produce the new stamps, which would share a common design.

RIGHT: Canada 1893 50c blue, recess-printed by the British American Bank Note Company



'The Queen was no longer the bright young thing depicted on existing stamps, and she had been a widow for 32 years'

Its choice of a portrait of Queen Victoria was quite unlike that used on the existing definitives, and was made partly out of realism and partly out of prudence.

Now 74 years of age, the Queen was no longer the bright young thing depicted on earlier issues, and she had been a widow for 32 years, so it seemed only natural to depict her with an older face, and

in the sombre 'widow's weeds' and cap she had adopted on the death of Prince Albert in 1861. Half-turned, with her head resting on her right hand, she cuts a reflective and rather melancholy figure.

However, this nod to reality also had a cost-saving implication, for the circular portrait was borrowed from a die created for revenue stamps 25 years previously. A decorative line-engraved frame loosely tied it in with the other existing postage stamps.

The 20c value was vermilion, and the 50c deep blue. Recess-printing was in sheets of 100 on medium white wove paper, perforated 12.

The 'British American Bank Note Co Ottawa' imprint appears twice on each sheet, in the upper and

lower margins, in a strip of solid colour with a pearled border.

With the initial order specifying a print run of half a million of each denomination, the issue was placed on sale on February 17, 1893.

After two years, an additional 25,000 of the 20c and 30,000 of the 50c were requested, and the following year a curious order was placed for just 200 of each. Why this was necessary remains a mystery, but it has been speculated that it was the source of the imperforate stamps which exist.

The 20c was in use for almost eight years, until superseded in 1900 by a stamp in the 1897 'Old Head' series.

The 50c lingered on until as late as 1908, before a King Edward VII stamp replaced it. ■

MARKET VALUES

Designed for use with bulk mail orders and on large parcels, Canada's 1893 stamps are generally found in used condition, with good examples priced around £50. Mint examples are catalogued at around £250, with fine, well-centred copies carrying a large premium.

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FA8 Scotland.....	£0.35
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FB10a Rolls Royce 8p RB.....	£1.40
FB10b Rolls Royce 8p LB.....	£1.40
FB11a Austin 10p RB.....	£1.40
FB11b Austin 10p LB.....	£1.40
FB12a Vauxhall 10p RB.....	£1.40
FB12b Vauxhall 10p LB.....	£1.40
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FB13b Daimler 10p LB.....	£1.40
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FB18b Mow Cop Castle LB.....	£4.50
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FB19b Paxtons 121/2p LB.....	£1.50
FB20a Temple Winds 121/2p RB.....	£1.50
FB20b Temple Winds 121/2p LB.....	£1.50
FB21a Temple Sun 121/2p RB.....	£1.50
FB21b Temple Sun 121/2p LB.....	£1.50
FB22a Water Gardens RB.....	£1.50
FB22b Water Gardens LB.....	£1.50
FB23a Bagot Goat 121/2p RB.....	£1.70
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Minority report

British society has had a widening racial mix for well over half a century, but how well has that been reflected in its commemorative stamps?

■ Report by Jeff Dugdale

Large-scale multi-racial immigration to Britain is widely considered to have begun in 1948, when the *SS Empire Windrush* carried 492 West Indians from Jamaica to settle in London, and when the British Nationality Act reaffirmed that immigrants from Commonwealth countries enjoyed full citizenship rights.

Between 1953 and 1961, immigration from the colonies and former colonies rose from a modest 2,000 per year to an unprecedented 135,000 per year. Despite restrictive Immigration Acts in 1962, 1968 and 1971, Britain had become a cultural melting pot by the mid-1970s.

This naturally, if gradually, came to be reflected in the country's cultural life, for example in the selection of national sports teams, the emergence of show-business celebrities, the evolution of musical tastes and the election of Members of Parliament. All of these areas saw breakthroughs by people of African-Caribbean origin between the late 1970s and the late 1980s.

Curiously, postage stamps proved a far harder nut to crack. You might be surprised to learn that two sets of stamps issued as late as 2005 (Gastronomy) and 2006 (Sounds of Britain) roughly doubled the total number of non-Caucasian people who had ever appeared centre-stage on stamps celebrating British culture.

Clearly, Royal Mail had failed to do justice to the racial mix of modern Britain up to that point, although the representation of ethnic minorities has increased markedly in the decade since.

False start

The first British issues to show non-white faces came in the 1960s, at a time when very few faces of any kind appeared on stamps.

Children of three unidentified races were illustrated on the 1s 3d



ABOVE: A breakthrough stamp in the portrayal of Britain's ethnic minorities was the 1982 Youth Organisations 26p, featuring scouts

value in the 1963 Freedom From Hunger set, three Trinidad folk dancers enjoying the Shrove Monday Carnival on a 6d value for the 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival, and a black footballer challenging for the ball on the 6d value in the 1966 World Cup set.

In none of these cases, however, was the design attempting to reflect British society. The Freedom From Hunger campaign was an international attempt to draw attention to the plight of malnourished people in third-world countries, the



ABOVE: The earliest non-Caucasians represented on British stamps, in the 1963 Freedom From Hunger, 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival, 1966 World Cup and 1969 Gandhi Centenary issues, were not members of British society

Commonwealth Arts Festival was put on in various British cities by visiting groups of performers from around the world, and the footballer was not wearing the kit of any of the home nations.

Likewise, when a stamp was issued to mark the birth centenary of the Indian nationalist leader Mahatma Gandhi in 1969, it was noting the multiculturalism of the former British Empire, not that of modern Britain.

Youth leader

The surprising reality, therefore, is that it was not until 1982 that a member of the British community was clearly portrayed on a stamp as being black, in the form of a teenage boy scout in the Youth Organisations issue.

With a total of eight young people illustrated across four stamp designs, this single member of an ethnic minority perhaps owed his appearance to considerations of

‘political correctness’ which were gaining strength in the early 1980s.

But he was also an accurate reflection of the fact that many 1960s immigrants by this time had teenage children who had been born and raised in Britain.

White Christmas?

If you disregard the 1984 set celebrating the overseas work of the British Council, which included images representing a health clinic in Nigeria, a building project in Sri



LEFT: The 1998 Notting Hill Carnival set of four celebrated a popular event which is inspired and organised by the Caribbean community in London

Lanka and a library in the Middle East, fully 12 years elapsed before Britain's next multicultural issue.

Of the 11 children illustrated when the 1994 Christmas set of five featured nativity plays, the Magi on the 25p design appear to include boys of African and Asian descent.

Subsequent seasonal stamps followed this lead. In 1997 the 2nd class value showed a black child and the 43p a black adult, although both were confined to minor roles alongside Father Christmas. In 1998 something of a barrier was broken when one of the angels imagined in a set of five was black, matching the skin colour of a significant proportion of Britain's Christian congregation by this time.

Carnival parade

If these designs could perhaps be criticised as tokenism, the same cannot be said for a breakthrough issue of August 1998.

In response to that year's Europa theme of Festivals, Royal Mail chose to offer an indiluted celebration of the Notting Hill Carnival, the two-day street party organised by London's Caribbean community every August.

In capturing the swirling energy of the parades, the deliberately blurred photography of Tim Hazael obscured the identity of the individuals dancing and showing off their exotic costumes, but left no doubt as to the West Indian inspiration behind the event.

Watershed moment

Acknowledgement of Britain's increasingly multi-racial society remained piecemeal for several more years.

One stamp in the 1999 Soldiers' Tale set, featuring peacekeeping operations overseas, showed black and white British servicemen



ABOVE: Christmas issues played a major role in introducing racial diversity into stamp design, including the 1994 25p, the 1997 2nd class and the 1998 26p



ABOVE: 1999 brought the first black serviceman to appear on a British stamp, in the 1999 Soldiers' Tale 64p. The Military Uniforms series in 2008-09 later illustrated a 1944 Royal Air Force gunner and an 1880 Royal Navy able seaman recruited through the British Empire

working within the international SFOR mission in Bosnia & Herzegovina from 1996-2004.

In the 2003 miniature sheet issued to celebrate England's victory in the Rugby World Cup, one of the players who was controversially recognisable on a 68p design, albeit from behind, was the flying winger Jason Robinson, wearing No14, who was born in Leeds of Scottish and Jamaican parentage.

But it was in 2005-06 that Royal

'Of more than 3,000 British stamps issued since 1840, only around 30 have portrayed non-Caucasian Britons'

Mail embarked upon its first concerted attempt to recognise the increasing influence of racial diversity on British culture.

In August 2005 came Changing Tastes in Britain, a contribution to that year's Europa theme of Gastronomy. Among the six illustrations were a woman of



ABOVE: Britain's ethnic diversity was properly acknowledged for the first time by the 2005 Changing Tastes in Britain and 2006 Sounds of Britain sets, celebrating its growing influence on the nation's food, drink and music



ABOVE: The first identifiable black Briton to appear on a stamp was Jason Robinson (No14), on a 68p value in the 2003 Rugby World Cup miniature sheet

African descent eating rice, a woman of Indian descent drinking tea and a woman assumed to be of Caribbean descent eating a bag of chips.

In a similar vein was the Sounds of Britain set of October 2006, highlighting musical styles with overseas influences. Featured among the five designs were an Asian sitar player and dancer, a Caribbean reggae base guitarist and drummer, a black American saxophonist and blues guitarist, and a Latin American maracas player with salsa dancers.

New attitude

These landmark issues heralded a succession of others which suggest a conscious attempt by Royal Mail to make its stamps more racially inclusive.

The 2005 Christmas set reproduced unconventional Madonna and Child paintings from around the world, including a black mother and baby from Haiti and Asian equivalents from India.

The 2006 National Portrait Gallery issue included as one of its

10 subjects Mary Seacole, the single-minded Jamaican nurse who travelled independently to the Black Sea to set up a hospital for troops injured in the Crimean War of 1853-56, in the face of prejudice from influential sections of Victorian society.

A 2006 issue marking the 150th Anniversary of the Victoria Cross included a stamp recalling the bravery of Corporal Agansing Rai VC, a Nepalese soldier serving in a Gurkha regiment of the Indian Army, in leading a counter-attack against the Japanese near Bishnupur in 1944 under withering machine-gun fire.

In similar vein, the set commemorating the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in 2007 portrayed Ignatius Sancho and Olaudah Equiano, African-Caribbean former slaves who made a rare impact on British society as writers and abolitionist campaigners in the 18th century.

The 2008 and 2009 issues in the Military Uniforms series also noted the contribution of the Empire and Commonwealth manpower to Britain's armed forces, by depicting an African-Caribbean air gunner of World War II and able seaman of the 19th century, respectively.

More recently, the 2014 Remarkable Lives set honoured Noorunnisa Inayat Khan, born in Russia of Indian descent, who served as a spy for Britain's Special Operations Executive during World War II and was executed by the Nazis in 1944, and the 2015 First World War set portrayed Kulbir Thapa, a Nepalese Gurkha serving in the British Army, who was



ABOVE: As in 1982, stamp issues in both 2007 and 2010 celebrating the centenaries of the scouting and girlguiding movements illustrated the involvement of young people from a range of ethnic backgrounds

awarded the Victoria Cross in France in 1915.

Decade of distinction

Although those issues were no direct reflection of the positive impact made by people from racial minorities on modern British life, various stamps released in the past decade have filled that void.

As in 1982, an issue devoted to Scouting in 2007 acknowledged the ethnic mix within the movement, this time evident on three of the six designs. A 2010 miniature sheet featuring Girlguiding followed suit.

One of the Women of Distinction commemorated in 2008 was Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian



ABOVE: The 2006 set marking the 150th anniversary of the National Portrait Gallery included a stamp honouring Mary Seacole, the Jamaican nurse who set up a hospital for British soldiers injured in the Crimean War

journalist and political activist who played a major role in campaigning for equal rights and improving racial harmony in Britain, founding the *West Indian Gazette* newspaper in 1958 and inspiring the forerunner of the Notting Hill Carnival in 1959.

Among the six living actors portrayed in character in the 2011 Royal Shakespeare Company set was the Nigerian-born but British-domiciled Chuk Iwuji playing King Henry VI.

One of the models used for the designs in the 2012 Welcome to the London 2012 Paralympic Games miniature sheet was wheelchair basketball player Abdi Jama. A refugee from Somalia who made a home in Liverpool, he had been the captain of Great Britain's bronze medal-winning team in Beijing in 2008.

Hailed as one of 10 Great Britons in an issue of 2013 was John Archer, one of the earliest African-Caribbeans to be elected to public office in Britain. Born in Liverpool to Barbadian and Irish parents, he overcame prejudice to become a councillor in the London borough of Battersea in 1906, and be elected mayor there in 1913.

Also in 2013, the team of 11 men selected for recognition as Football Heroes included John Barnes, the Jamaican-born winger who won every domestic honour with Liverpool and was capped 79 times by England, which at the time was a record for a black player.

Marianne Jean-Baptiste, a



ABOVE: 2008 Women of Distinction 72p honouring civil rights activist and journalist Claudia Jones



ABOVE: 2011 Royal Shakespeare Company 68p depicting Chuk Iwuji in his role as King Henry VI



ABOVE: 2013 Great Britons 1st class honouring John Archer, one of the earliest black politicians to hold elected office



ABOVE: 2013 Football Heroes 1st class illustrating John Barnes, one of England's top players in the 1980s and 1990s



London-born actress with West Indian parentage, and Parminder Nagra, a Leicester-born actress with Indian parentage, were depicted in the 2014 Great British Film issue in their roles in *Secrets & Lies* and *Bend It Like Beckham* respectively.

In 2015, the Comedy Greats set has honoured Lenny Henry, who was born in Dudley to Jamaican parents, while the Star Wars set has portrayed the actor John Boyega, who was born in London to Nigerian parents.

Golden generation

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'It was in 2005-06 that Royal Mail embarked upon its first concerted attempt to recognise the increasing influence of racial diversity on British culture'

multi-racial Britain, however, came amongst the Gold Medal Winner miniature sheets issued during the London 2012 Olympics.

Two of these celebrated the remarkable achievement of the athlete Mo Farah, who was born in Somalia to a British father and moved to London at the age of eight, in winning both the 5,000m and 10,000m events.

Another hailed the winner of the heptathlon, Jessica Ennis (now Ennis-Hill), who was born in Sheffield to a Jamaican father and was widely considered the poster-girl of the Olympics.

Two black boxers who joined them in winning their events and thereby getting to appear on stamps were the seemingly ever-smiling Leeds-born flyweight Nicola Adams, who became the first woman ever to win an Olympic boxing gold medal, and the Watford-born super heavyweight Anthony Joshua, who has Nigerian parentage.

Growing momentum

The bald statistic is that, of more than 3,000 British stamps issued since 1840, only around 30 have portrayed non-Caucasian Britons, and most of these have been issued in the past decade.

Of course, when you put this in context it is not really surprising. British stamps showed very few faces at all, besides that of the monarch, until the 1970s, and largely adhered to a policy of not showing recognisable living people, besides royalty, until the mid-2000s.

If you consider which deceased Britons of African-Caribbean and Asian descent deserve to have been honoured on stamps and haven't been, it might not be a long list — at least, not yet.

But the interesting point is the pace at which the celebration of the country's ethnic mix has been growing. If it started with a degree of tokenism, it now has a momentum of its own. ■

BELOW: One of the latest black Britons to be portrayed is the comedian Lenny Henry, in the 2015 Comedy Greats set



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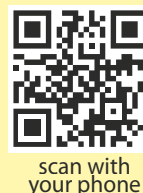
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Mine host

Sungei Ujong was a stamp-issuing British protectorate in Malaya from 1878-95. For most of that period it relied on overprints, with myriad varieties to collect

■ Report by Adrian Keppel

The discovery of tin in peninsular Malaysia in the 1870s attracted an influx of Arabian, Chinese and Malayan migrant workers. New towns sprang up around the mines, among them Kuala Lumpur (now the capital of Malaysia) and, some 50 miles to the south, Sungei Ujong (now Seremban).

When local chieftains started quarrelling about tax-collecting rights, this opened the door to the extension of British influence from neighbouring Malacca. In 1874, Sungei Ujong was officially taken under British protection.

The first postage stamp issued for Sungei Ujong, in 1878, was a Straits Settlements 2c value with an oval handstamp comprising a crescent, a star and the abbreviation 'SU'.

It could be used only for mail within Malaya; letters to wider destinations had to be franked with unoverprinted Straits Settlements stamps. This restriction, combined with a limited print-run and a lack of



ABOVE: Sungei Ujong 1881 2c brown, showing 'Sungei' overprint type 2 and 'Ujong' overprint type 7

of the protectorate.

Not only were there differences in typography (narrow or wide, roman or italic, upper case or upper and lower case), but in the first five years the words 'Sungei' and 'Ujong' were overprinted as separate operations, with many varieties of each identified. 'Sungei'



ABOVE: Sungei Ujong 1891-94 5c blue, from its first issue of Malay States key-type stamps

Eventually, the many overprints were replaced by dedicated Sungei Ujong stamps, using the established Malay States key-type designs with the country name tablet inscribed 'S Ujong'.

In 1891-94 came 2c and 5c values depicting the crouching tiger (with the 5c in two different colours receiving 1c and 3c surcharges in 1894), and 1895 came a 3c with the tiger's head design.

By the time the latter stamp appeared, however, Sungei Ujong had already been absorbed into Negri Sembilan by treaty, and almost immediately began using the latter's stamps. ■

'For some years the words Sungei and Ujong were overprinted as separate operations. In one issue Ujong was misspelt Unjog!'

contemporary record-keeping, meant that it was not until 1881 that the existence of this stamp was recognised by European philatelists; they were confused by the existence of the same handstamp on an India ½a blue, but this was later declared bogus.

During the decade from 1881, Straits Settlements stamps of 2c, 4c, 8c and 10c were overprinted either 'Sungei Ujong' or simply 'SU', with a wealth of overprint varieties making this the most interesting period in the philately

was often printed with a horizontal triplet setting, with 'Ujong' added later as a single handstamp.

In total, therefore, some 30 different combinations of the two-line overprint have been recorded, some of which have three-figure catalogue values. On top of this there are errors to be collected, such as double overprints and the remarkable 'Unjog' error of spelling on the 2c value from 1889.

In 1891, there was also an issue of Straits Settlements 24c stamps surcharged with 2c.

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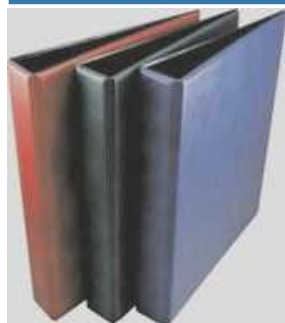
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Q. How to Build a Good Stamp Collection?

A. (Hint) If it's easy – maybe it is TOO easy...

10+ 'TOP TIPS' for Successful Collecting

As many of you know I made the decision to give up collecting when I started full-time in the trade 43 years ago. But here's what I perceive as a mistake I made in terms of re-sale value and in enjoyment. If you are not bothered about **V A L U E** then you don't need to read further...

What I collected then was easy to source. It was good quality. They were (and still are) lovely stamps but they would be worth less now than when I collected and that's more than 40 years ago. The basic mistake I made then was thinking that 'easy' made for a good stamp collection. Yes, 'easy' made for a lovely collection but I could buy those same stamps – in the SAME quality – from any number of different sources. I still can today ... so if I can buy them easily today – will their value have appreciated? Has demand for what is/was easily available increased? The answer is a firm **NO**.

TIP As an 'aside'. In particular be wary of 'inertia' selling delivery systems – where you pay on direct debit / standing order system / monthly invoice. These systems usually hide the highest mark-ups in our industry and the lowest recovery value when it comes to sale. You are going to find this story particularly incredible – but about 13 years ago I was once called to clear a house-full of stamps. The owner had died leaving many 100's of unopened New Issue delivery envelopes. I opened one of the oldest envelopes. Inside was a note from the supplier saying sorry they

had not delivered the MINT 1929 PUC £1 ! Ah well, I thought "such is life" – the collection included both mint Wembleys + literally masses more. Imagine my surprise when the next envelope opened included a MINT PUC £1 with a note saying "we found one for you" (and then the realisation that this High Value stamp had lain inside the same envelope for so long that it had a large brown 'rust-spot' on the reverse!

Returning to subject: So, what forms the basis of a **GOOD** stamp collection if I want '**resale VALUE**'?

TIP 1). The answer is, as usual, a combination of factors ... BUT, if you think in terms of desirability and then dial in quality ... this makes for a collection that others will wish to purchase. Of course collecting means that some of the stamps you source will be easily available ... but if ALL the stamps you collect are easily available and on average they cost very little each ... then you may have 1,000's of different stamps whose value lies in the actual handling cost of the supplier – not in their intrinsic value. So when it comes to selling this may result in little / no interest. Of course it goes without saying **TIP** – Always collect the Best quality that you can afford.

Where Do I Source Good Stamps ?

2). Sadly, in some senses, the Philatelic World has changed. Gone are the days when in 1980 100,000 different Collectors descended upon the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition at Earls Court. I know because I was there. An International Stamp Show in the 'west' today may be lucky to see 10,000 visitors. A stamp fair today in a local village / town may be lucky to see 30 visitors let alone 20 actual buyers ... when you consider that 15 dealers may have travelled to such a venue – is it any surprise that many Collectors may see the same stamps they saw at that same venue a month before?

3). No, the answer is that Stamp Collecting is alive and well – stamps shops are all but defunct – but 'underground' – on-line, by mail-order and at auction things are still 'humming' depending upon whom you are dealing with. So, let's look at potentially / proba-

bly the biggest sourcing area of the hobby apart from retail which is fairly self-explanatory ... and that is bidding / buying at Stamp Auction.

4). **Nowadays there are three types of stamp auction:** – Pure Internet / Public - (including on-line bidding) / Postal (Mail-Bid Sales – including on-line). Each has its strengths and weaknesses. Let's start with Pure Internet live auctions, I won't mention names but in some senses these are today's equivalent of the 'Wild West'. As fast as these internet Giants catch up with the some of the crooks using them, the crooks move a step ahead ... many internet bidders using them are 'hooked'.

TIP 4a). They have become 'live auction obsessed' unwilling / not capable of looking elsewhere – thinking that bidding / buying this way guarantees value which it does not. What happens when they come to sell?

Please turn to page 87 

State of limbo



The postal history of Rhodesia in the years following its Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 has been ignored for too long. A rewarding collection of covers and cancellations can be compiled

■ Report by Alastair Gunn

When the Federation of Rhodesia & Nyasaland was dissolved at the end of 1963, it was with a view to the three British colonies and protectorates of central southern Africa being granted independence in an orderly manner. But the governing elite of one of them was unhappy with the way this was being done.

The British Government's policy was that independence had to go hand-in-hand with black majority rule, and this was duly arranged in Nyasaland, which became independent as Malawi in July 1964, and Northern Rhodesia, which became independent as Zambia in October the same year.

In Southern Rhodesia, however, the white minority was determined to cling to power, and protracted negotiations failed to resolve the dispute between its Prime Minister, Ian Smith, and Britain's new Prime Minister, Harold Wilson.

The impasse came to a head when the colony, which had already renamed itself simply Rhodesia without official recognition, made a Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) on November 11, 1965.

Having not been granted independence by the United Kingdom, Rhodesia became a rebel state, unrecognised not only by London but also by the United Nations, and subject to economic sanctions.

The country's time in limbo would last 15 years and generate a lot of emotion, and perhaps as a consequence of this its postal history has been ignored by many collectors. Yet it is philatelically rich and fascinating, with unusual cancellations and many rates and usage challenges, and it deserves closer study.



ABOVE: Prime Minister Ian Smith signs Rhodesia's shocking Unilateral Declaration of Independence on November 11, 1965

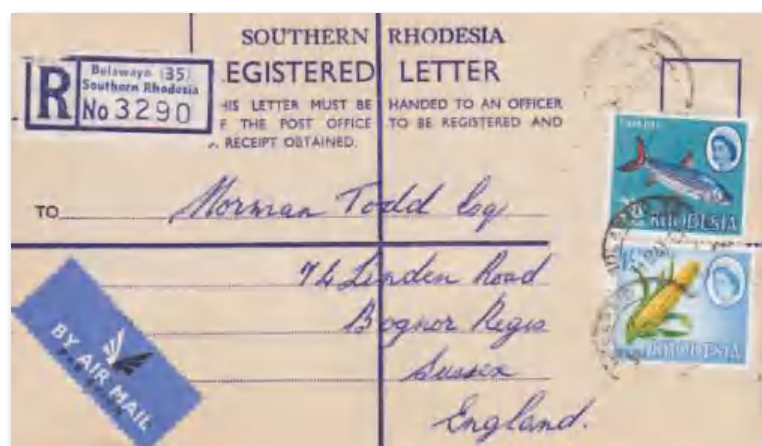
'Rhodesia's 15-year period in limbo generated a lot of emotion, and as a consequence its postal history has been shunned by many collectors. Yet it is philatelically rich'

RIGHT: Philatelic first day cover of the Independence 2s 6d, dated December 8, 1965, with a photograph of Smith inside an outline of the country and a Southern Rhodesia registration label





ABOVE: Cover of February 1966, addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury in London, using two 6d Southern Rhodesia definitives with illegal 'Independence' overprints alongside an unoverprinted 3d, surcharged at double the deficiency, which is 2s



LEFT: Registered letter of May 1966 to England, bearing 1s and 2s 6d stamps of the 1966-70 definitive series. Although the stamps are inscribed 'Rhodesia', note that the envelope and registration label are still inscribed 'Southern Rhodesia'; the Bulawayo datestamp also has 'SR' at the base

Before UDI

The two-year period between the dissolution of the federation and independence declaration, from January 1, 1964, to November 10, 1965, is a difficult one for postal historians.

There was no shortage of stamp issues. In February 1964 a colourful definitive set of 15 printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons depicted wildlife, crops and flowers under the name Southern Rhodesia. In 1965 came three sets marking the Centenary of the International Telecommunication Union, Water Conservation and Sir Winston Churchill, all under the name Rhodesia.

However, finding these used in period on commercial covers is a real challenge; it may be that not enough covers survive to make a one-frame exhibit!

After UDI

The philatelic world woke up to Rhodesia's re-emergence as a

stamp-issuing country with UDI, because the political crisis brought two controversial stamp issues.

Firstly, a single 2s 6d



ABOVE: Souvenir first day cover of May 2, 1966 from Rhopec, the 28th Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, franked with the set of four stamps issued to mark the occasion. The illustrations of a 1913-22 definitive and the 1965 Independence stamp emphasise the link between the UDI regime and Rhodesia's previous existence

DID YOU KNOW?

Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1965 was the first example of a colony breaking away from British rule without British acquiescence since the United States of America's Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Independence stamp depicting Queen Elizabeth II alongside the Coat of Arms was issued four weeks after the declaration, on December 8, 1965. Locally printed by Mardon in the capital, Salisbury, it has also been extensively forged, even though it is not a rare stamp.

Even more impact was made by the overprinting of the 1964 definitives with 'Independence/11th November 1965' (with the 1s 3d value also existing with a surcharge of 5s).

Britain's response to both issues was that they were illegal, and mail sent to the United Kingdom with them was charged postage due in accordance with the double-deficiency policy.

Such covers are interesting historical records, especially when mixed with unoverprinted Southern Rhodesia stamps which were accepted as valid. But it is worth noting that many of them

are philatelic, with commercial covers significantly harder to find.

Pre-decimal period

The definitive series inscribed simply for 'Rhodesia' was issued in February 1966, using the Southern Rhodesia designs of 1964 but with the country name changed. Initially these were printed in gravure by Harrisons, but later in litho by Mardon as the rebel state's international isolation increased.

Various commemorative issues followed over the next four years, including for the Congress of the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa and the 20th Anniversary of Central African Airways in 1966, the 10th Anniversary of the Rhodes National Gallery in 1967, the World Ploughing Contest and the 75th Anniversary of Matabeleland in 1968, and the 70th Anniversary of the Beira-Salisbury Railway in 1969.

Interspersed with these were three single-stamp issues honouring Famous Rhodesians, and sets of four featuring Nature Conservation and Bridges.

It is possible to find a range of covers to show the rates and usage of these stamps, with assorted cancellations. Higher rates are

normally on registered letters, and in the early years these still have 'Southern Rhodesia' postal stationery, registration labels and registration cancels, presumably as a cost-cutting measure.

Dual-currency issue

Like many other countries in this era, newly independent Rhodesia decided to switch to decimal currency. Unusually, it issued a dual-currency set of stamps as an interim measure in 1967-1968.

The five values were reprints of the 3d, 1s, 1s 6d, 2s and 2s 6d definitives with the addition of their equivalent values of 2½c, 10c, 15c, 20c and 25c respectively.

The higher values are hard to find on cover. Covers with a combination of dual-currency stamps and either pre-decimal or decimal single-currency stamps are known, but they are uncommon.

Decimal period

A dedicated decimal definitive series was issued on February 17, 1970, once again locally printed in litho, with values ranging from 1c to \$2.

The designs largely illustrated agriculture, industry, engineering and wildlife, as well as a statue of Cecil Rhodes, the 19th-century founder of the colony. With Rhodesia preparing to declare itself a republic on March 2, the Queen's portrait was omitted.

One effect of the introduction of these stamps was that all Rhodesian stamps were now



ABOVE: Cachet and postmark of the Matapex exhibition organised by the Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia in Bulawayo in November 1968, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Matabeleland as does the 3d stamp

'Britain's response to the stamp issues which followed UDI was that they were illegal, and mail from Rhodesia was charged postage due'



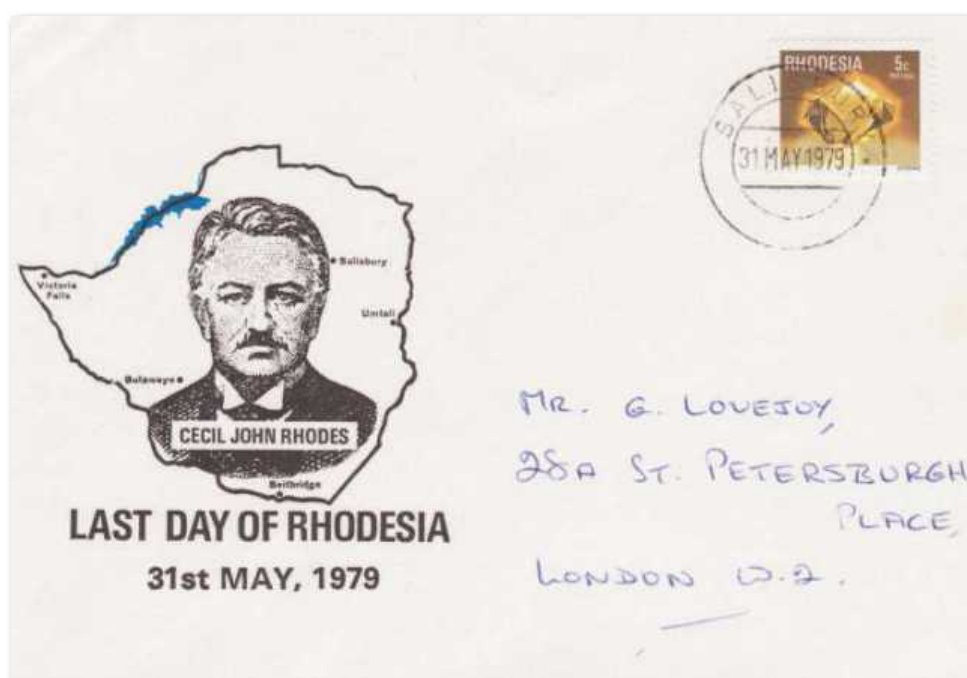
ABOVE: Three examples of Rhodesia's 3d/2½c dual-currency stamp used on a pre-1964 Rhodesia & Nyasaland air letter sent from Salisbury to London in October 1967. Interestingly, it is addressed to the Overseas Service of the BBC



ABOVE: Unusual but legal mixed franking of a pre-decimal 6d definitive and a decimal 2½c definitive on an air letter posted on October 26, 1970, eight months after decimalisation. Note that the old stamp has the Queen's portrait and the new one doesn't, Rhodesia having by this time declared itself a republic



ABOVE: Registered letter sent from Enkeldoorn to Salisbury on May 23, 1975, bearing 3c and 12½c values from the 1974 definitive series and a Rhodesia registration label



ABOVE: Souvenir cover sent from Salisbury to London on the last day of Rhodesia's existence, May 31, 1979, with the 5c value from the 1978 definitive series and a portrait of Cecil Rhodes. Note that the country name has already been removed from the datestamp

considered illegal by Britain, so once again there are postage due covers to be found.

A new definitive series launched in 1974 depicted antelopes, wild flowers and butterflies, and another in 1978 illustrated gemstones, wild animals and waterfalls. The 1970s also saw typically two or three special issues per year.

Rhodesian covers with decimal stamps are more common than those with pre-decimal stamps, as they would remain in use for twice as long, but there are interesting quirks to watch out for.

Overseas mail tended to feature multiples of low-value stamps, suggesting that the high values were not always readily available. Registered mail often had a red 'postage paid in cash' handstamp, and rubber handstamps were sometimes also used instead of registered labels, even in Salisbury; again, this may reflect the state of the economy.

Sanctions were starting to bite hard, the guerrilla war fought by militant black nationalists was being ramped up, and the personal messages on some aerogrammes and postcards can make sobering reading.

Time of transition

As Smith's minority government became increasingly untenable and a resolution to the country's status edged closer, it changed its name three times in a year.

It became Zimbabwe Rhodesia (with a power-sharing agreement but still without international recognition) on June 1, 1979, Southern Rhodesia (officially as a British colony once again while democratic elections were organised) on December 12, 1979, and finally Zimbabwe (a republic with internationally recognised independence) on April 18, 1980.

These name changes allowed for many philatelic concoctions, but commercial mail from this period is hard to find in Britain.

In postal history terms, one of the most interesting aspects of the upheaval is the removal of the country's name from handstamps and machine cancellations. This contravened the regulations of the Universal Postal Union, but that was the least of the concerns of this nation in transition. ■

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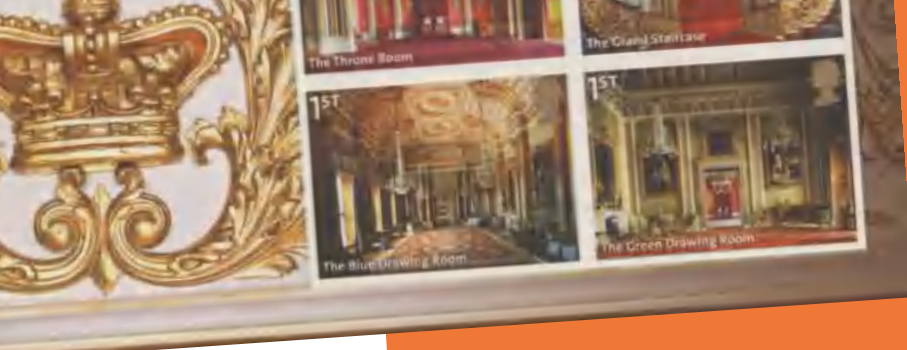
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A former editor of *Stamp Magazine*, and past president of the National Philatelic Society



Who created these pre-decimal self-adhesives?

Q This set of self-adhesive reprints of pre-decimal Queen Elizabeth II special issues came from a reputable stamp dealer, but I have no other information about their origin. Are they genuine official reprints, or forgeries?

Mervin Wallace, via e-mail

A These are not official reprints as such, but non-postal labels printed to order with Royal Mail's consent in a business customised Smilers sheet.

The sheet was commissioned by the well-known Hampshire-based dealer Rushstamps in 2006, to mark the 50th anniversary of Europa stamp issues.

It's a little surprising that the company was permitted to reproduce entire stamps in this way. But then of course the illustrated designs, which date from 1960, 1961 and 1969, were long since invalidated.

Being self-adhesive, and distorted to fit the labels, they would not fool any collector into thinking they were original stamps.



ABOVE: 50th Anniversary of Europa Stamps customised Smilers sheet commissioned Rushstamps in 2006

Why was this British meter mail not surcharged?

Q Why would the 'Do Not Surcharge' handstamp have been applied over this 2011 item of meter mail by Royal Mail's Revenue Protection department?

Aubrey Sheena, via e-mail

A If meter mail is underpaid, or unpaid altogether as here, the usual procedure is that the sender is contacted by Revenue Protection and asked for payment.

On receipt of the payment, the item is handstamped in this way to make it clear that the underpayment has already been resolved, and the item has the go-ahead for delivery.



GOT A QUESTION?

E-mail your question, with a 300dpi digital image, to: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com We will answer as many queries as we can on these pages, but please note that we are unable to respond to them by e-mail, post or telephone, and it might not be possible to solve and publish all that we receive.

When did postcard messages migrate from the picture side to the address side?

Q When were picture postcards first used with one entire side taken up by a picture, and therefore with both the address and the message on the other side? Was this development welcomed or resisted by postal authorities?
James North, Preston

A At the beginning of the golden age of postcards, in the 1890s, picture postcards had to have space on the picture side for a short message, because Universal Postal Union rules stated that correspondence with any handwritten message on the address side did not qualify for the international postcard rate.

Cards in the modern style, with a line dividing the message from the address on the same side, and a picture on the other side, were first used in Britain, starting in 1902. Their use quickly spread to other countries in Europe and the British Empire over the following years.

This caused some consternation amongst the postal authorities, and in accordance with the regulations these 'divided postcards' were habitually charged postage due (well demonstrated by an article by Per Gustafson in the June 2015 issue of the *London*

Philatelist, the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London).

Bilateral agreements between countries gradually began to confront this problem, and the UPU changed its rules with effect from October 1907 to allow these messages to qualify as postcards.



ABOVE: Typical holiday postcard of 1901, with the message written on the same side as the picture, in this case of Tynemouth Pier



ABOVE: Early divided postcard, sent from the Falkland Islands to the USA in 1902. The addressee was fortunate not to have been charged postage due



ABOVE: Unused divided postcard of 1904, with the left side newly inscribed 'For inland postage only this space may now be used for communication'

Why was this Greek postcard sent from Russia to Chile?

Q I came across this unusual Greek picture postcard sent from Russia to Chile in 1912. The picture side is pretty nondescript, with a view of Cardaki on the island of Corfu, but the message side is intriguing. What can you tell me about it, and do you have any suggestions as to the meaning of the strange message, which is in English?

Mark Skewis, Wrexham

A The stamp is a Russia 4k from the 1906 definitive series, and the postmark is of the post/telegraph office in the town of Satinka in Tambov province, south-east of Moscow.

The date is not clear, but

appears to be in October 1912. Note that this date is in the old Julian calendar; Russia did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1918.

We believe the card was sent from one

postcard collector to another, perhaps as part of an exchange arrangement. The 'TT7763' above the message would be a club membership number, so the addressee would know the address of the sender from a circulated membership list.

The message, written in basic English, informs the addressee, who has a Spanish-sounding name, that the sender, V Sitovsky, is more confident in German and Russian. He was clearly aware that there was (and remains) a significant German community in Chile.

The words in Russian above the address translate as 'Chile, South America' to help the local sorting office.



MAL 62 MALAYA A substantial collection of Malaya, Malaysia with Singapore. Contains several hundred unmounted mint and fine used stamps in blocks and singles. Noted: Perak, Selangor, Kedah, Sabah, Perlis, Trengganu, Pulau Pinang, Negri Sembilan, Kelantan, Sarawak, Melaka, Johor, Parang; with strength in Singapore. Several hundred stampsPrice £17

CO. 882 COLOMBIA An important collection of Colombian stamps dating back to older engraved issues. The collection contains several hundred Colombian stamps, including mint and used with elusive overprinted stamps noted. Several hundred different stamps of Colombia Price £24

R. 472 RYUKYU ISLANDS: Rarely offered for sale, this is a superb collection of the stamps of The Ryukyu Islands. Containing only superb unmounted mint stamps. Over 100 different Ryukyu Island StampsPrice £18.75

MI 349 MALDIVES ISLANDS: An impressive stamp collection of only unmounted mint blocks of Maldivian Island stamps. The collection is rich in thematic commemoratives. Several hundred mint Maldivian Islands StampsPrice £16

BOB 2 WINSTON CHURCHILL One of the scarcest Churchill covers ever. The combination cover is a dual commemorative of 50th anniversary of Churchill's death in conjunction with the 75th Anniv. of the Battle of Britain. Depicting the iconic war poster with Churchill's quote: "Never was so much owed by so many to so few." The cover bears the Royal Mail Churchill Commemorative stamps issue with Churchill Blenheim Palace Pmk. Dated 24/1/15 Anniv. Of Churchill's death. The cover was unusually reposted on 16/7/15 with Battle of Britain Spitfire anniv. Pmk. on the Royal Mail Spitfire commemorative stamp issue. From a restricted limited edition of only 50 covers.Price £21

SA337 SAUDI ARABIA A small but valuable collection of Saudi Arabian stamps, all different and in superb unmounted mint condition. Contains lots of elusive items, the catalogue value is in excess of £100.Price £23.50

CH 739 CHURCHILL A fantastic thematic collection of Winston Churchill stamps; comprising of hundreds of mint and used Churchill stamps, including blocks, noted scarcer unmounted mint blocks of exile govt. Churchill stamps dating back to 1952 unlisted in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue (seldom seen). All aspects of the great man's life are portrayed in this collection. Hundreds of Winston Churchill stamps... Price £18

HK 145 HONG KONG A fine collection of used stamps of Hong Kong. Almost all the stamps pre date the handover to China. Including \$ values and popular Chinese New Year Commemoratives. Totally unchecked for catalogue value, over 100 Hong Kong stampsPrice £11.

CL5 CLEMENT ATTLEE A scarce political cover commemorating the 70th anniv. of Clement Attlee becoming prime minister. Attlee won a landslide election victory in 1945 bringing the Labour party into power. The scarce cover depicts Clement Attlee in his World War I army uniform. The cover bears the official Royal Mail Attlee commemorative stamp issue with London 26/7/15 postmark. Only 50 of this scarce political cover are known to exist.Price £19.25

E.E. 543 EASTERN EUROPE Includes Russia, Roumania Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Poland. Several hundred different stampsPrice £13.25

SAM.1. POLAND - small general collection, include - Nazi Occupation Concentration Camp issue inscribed 'Judenpost' for Lodz Ghetto (Litzmanstadt) 10pf Green (unused). We cannot guarantee this item but remainder of the collection all seem OK Cheap Price£8.75

SJ120 MEDICAL Stamps with specialised lot of Anti-TB and Red Cross stamps. Also Anti-Malaria stamps Red Cross stamps back to the 1940s or earlier up to more recent. With nursing, doctors and all forms of medicine. A most interesting subject rarely offered for sale ideal for anyone with some medical knowledge to form a valuable collectionPrice £7

G.114 A WORLDWIDE COVERS & FDC'S Fantastic Accumulation of Commercial & Philatelic covers & FDC's including special pmks, early to modern with Air Mails, Sea Mail, commemorative covers, noted designer signed. Local posts, Islands Post, an unsorted group of about 100 covers.....Price £21

G126E WORKS OF ART. The rarities of the world's most famous art galleries at your fingertips. A superb collection of famous paintings on stamps, over a thousand different not counting duplicates or miniature sheetsPrice £26

RS2a UNIFORMS. Mainly military. Hundreds different.....Price £12

Let K2 GREAT BRITAIN. UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted include Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps, only unmounted mintPrice £18

R45 MINIATURE SHEETS & Souvenir Sheets, various different GB (Exhibition sheets) FOREIGN, odd Brit. Commonwealth. Total of 50+ different (Mainly Foreign) Min sheetsPrice £8

NY146 ENTOMOLOGY: One of the most unusual thematic subjects we have ever seen, insects on stamps. Hundreds of them Price £7

SJ53a BARDSEY ISLAND. (Welsh Local Issue) A superb specialised group of Unmounted Mint (complete sets) Stamps from this small Welsh Island rarely get offered for salePrice £7.00

NY124 THE THREE KINGS King George V, King ED. VII and King George VI. A collection of British Colonials. UNMOUNTED MINT STAMPS. In singles and blocks. Approximately 100+ stamps, low price to clearPrice £12.00

EUR 33 EUROPA - A specialised European thematic Collection of Europa stamps, spanning from the 1950's to more modern stamps. Includes Italy, France, Germany, Iceland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Cyprus, Netherlands, G.B. Denmark, Portugal, Spain, Swiss, Finland, Greece, Sweden. Also scarcer local issues for Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Hundreds of all different Europa Stamps, mainly fine used, but mini notedPrice £17

FR 229 FRANCE & COLS - A smashing collection of France with French Colonies & Ex Colonies. Mainly Commemorative stamps in singles and blocks. Some unmounted mint, but mostly fine used. A lovely collection with many engraved stamps; several hundreds, mostly different Price £21

BX 486 BOXING - A fine collection of Boxing Stamps Over 80 Stamps in blocks and singles, including champion boxers such as Muhammad Ali. Mainly fine to used, mint noted, with Great Britain Royal Mail 2012 Olympic Games Gold Medal Boxing StampsPrice £9.75

HP 19A IRAQ WAR COVER - Extremely rare War in Iraq commemorative cover for the fall of Tikrit. Only 150 of this cover, depicting Saddam Hussein, ever existed. We understand many were damaged and destroyed, it is likely on a few covers survived. The cover bears a GB QEII stamp, postmarked with circular London SHC 15 April 2003 Pmk. Together with Iraq stamp overprinted "In British Occupation" This stamp is tied to the cover with a rectangular "Liberation of Iraq 15-04-03 THE FALL OF TIKRIT". Cachet in purple. A very rare Iraq War Cover in superb condition.Price £26

LU 328 LUNDY ISLAND - A superb collection of unmounted mint British local stamps of Lundy Island in blocks, large multiples and singles + miniature sheet. Starts off with King George VI period. "Lundy & Atlantic Coats Air Lines Ltd. "Following on to puffin stamps overprinted with 1950s & 1960s stamps on to more recent. With lots of "Puffin" stamps, definitives, commemoratives & Air Mail stamps. Hundreds of unmounted mint Lundy Stamps.....Price £27.50

B COM 434 ORNITHOLOGY - A fantastic thematic collection of British Commonwealth BIRDS stamps. Only Unmounted Mint in multiples and single stamps. Several Hundred Brit. Commonwealth Bird Stamps including High Value (£) pound & (\$) Dollar stamps in blocks....Price £39

CR 781 CRICKET - A valuable specialised collection of cricket stamps & scarce cricket covers, including signed covers photographed by famous cricketers. Comprising of Unmounted Mint Great Britain and British Commonwealth Stamps in blocks of four or singles with several high value (\$) Dollar values. Approx 18 cricket covers including scarce photographed covers & a quantity of Unm. Mint Cricket stamps Price £25

PM 84 MARGARET THATCHER - The very scarce mourning cover for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. One of the scarcest political covers. Only 50 ever in existence, mostly now in collectors hands and rarely offered for sale. With "Iron Lady" illustration and official Royal Mail 8th April 2013. Big Ben postmark pricePrice £13.25

PER 5 - PERSIA & IRAN - A fine collection of several hundred Persia & Iran stamps, includes mint and used dating back to early engraved "Shah" stamps to more modern issues. Several Hundred different stamps, a good collection to build uponPrice £14

C545 - WORLD COLLECTION - A great starter lot, with mint & used stamps also noted: miniature sheets, phq cards and several fdc's. Several hundred different world wide stamps plus other itemsLow price to clearPrice £9.75

GB.51 - GREAT BRITAIN SCARCE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN COMM. Cover. Bearing the Abram Games stamp designer official Royal Mail Commem. Stamp cancelled with iconic Festival of Britain 25/3/14 Postmark. The cover also bears the complete King George VI 1951 Festival stamps with black cachet "G.P.O. 1951 Festival of Britain Official Stamp Issue" The edition was limited to only 100 of these important coversPrice £11.25

MC.334 - MUSIC - An awesome & valuable collection of music stamps begins with an orchestra of musical instrument stamps. The specialist classical section includes: Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Verdi, Bartok. Also jazz and pop music stamps, with Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Oasis, Marlene Dietrich. With G.B. Royal Mail stamps of Freddy Mercury, The Beatles and Pink Floyd. A multiple of other issues for Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Michael Jackson, Kylie Minogue, Elvis Presley and many more- Hundreds of stamps - mint and used with several miniature sheets. The best Music collection we have ever seen.....Price £29.25

J18 GREAT BRITAIN SCARCE WORLD WAR I COVER - A scarce commemorative cover for the Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the accepted incident that initiated World War I. The cover bears GB Royal Mail, British Legion commemorative issue with official Royal Mail postmark inscribed: "Outbreak of World War I - 1914 - 1918 Westminster Abbey dated 1/1/2014" Additionally the cover also bears Austro Hungarian military stamp with blue cachet "Bosnien Herzegowina Franz Ferdinand 1914 - 2014 Sarajevo" The Scarce cover was a severely restricted issue of only 75 covers and hard to locatePrice £15

SW. 86 SWITZERLAND - A great starter collection to build upon of fine used Swiss mainly Commemorative stamps. 100 + All different.....Price £7

UN. 872 UNITED NATIONS - A lovely collection of only unmounted mint stamps, many in sets. Contains several plate number blocks as well as single stamps. Approx. 120 Mint United Nations stamps plus Miniature SheetsPrice £9.80

FA16 - FALKLAND ISLANDS Scarce Referendum Cover - A rare and unusual cover for the Falkland Islands Referendum. The illustrated Falklands flag cover is inscribed 11/3/2013 Falkland Islanders vote on Self Determination. The cover bears a British Q.E.2. stamp with double penguin postmark dates 11/3/2013 Shetland P.O. It also has a Falkland Is. referendum stamp and Argentine War "Malvinas" ovpt stamp, both tied to the cover with Green Cachet "Falklands Referendum NO to Malvinas. 99.8% vote in favour of remaining with U.K. 11/3/2013" only 50 of rare covers are known to existPrice £18.50

GB 93 CONCORDE - An essay for the 1959 G.P.O Concorde stamp. A submitted design for the 4d demoniation in blue unwatermarked, imperforate with large margin - unmounted mint essay exhibition sheetPrice £12

AF 21 AFRICA - A massive collection of Africa including mint and used stamps and Miniature Sheets. Countries noted include: Tunisia, Mozambique Company, Ghana including overprints on Gold Coast. Tanzania, Belgium Congo, South Africa, Rwanda, Cameroun, S.W. Africa, Lesotho, French Somali coast, Sudan, Sierra Leone - plus many others. A glorious collection of over 500 stamps, mostly all different singles with some unmounted mint blocksPrice £29

BW 347 BRITISH WEST INDIES - An excellent collection of mainly unmounted mint British West Indies Stamps. Including: St Christopher Nevis & Anguilla, Antigua, Grenada, St Vincent, Cayman Islands, St Lucia & others. Also includes PHQ cards and F.D.C's, including first day cover signed by stamp designer and also scarce proof stamps and progressive proof stampsPrice £22

BH 44 BHUTAN - The collection from the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan comprises solely of unmounted mint stamps with blocks and singles and miniature sheets. A glorious lot of well over 100 unmounted mint stampsPrice £11.50

GS 9L GRAF SPEE - The very scarce WWII Commemorative Cover for the 75th Anniv. of the scuttling of the pocket battle ship Graf Spee. Captain Hans Langsdorff scuttled the ship in full view of 20,000 onlookers before he shot and killed himself. The cover bears two submarine stamps with B.F.P.O. titled "The River Plate pmk. dated 13 Dec. 14., and also the scarce Royal Crown and Lion pmk. Dated 17 Dec 2014 on the Anniv. date. It is understood that only 60 of this scarce cover existsPrice £18.50

B. 832 BRITISH AFRICA - A superb collection of only unmounted mint stamps from British Africa. Countries noted include: South Africa, Zambia, Ghana, Bechuanaland, Transkei, South West Africa, Zimbabwe, Gambia, Rhodesia, Lesotho, Tanzania & Swaziland with blocks and singles, hundreds of unmounted mint stampsPrice £17.25

POL. 14 MARGARET THATCHER - One of the scarcest political covers ever. Issued to commemorate the 40th Anniv. of Margaret Thatcher becoming Leader of the Conservative Party in 1975. The first woman to lead a British Political party. The important cover bears British Margaret Thatcher stamps with (Royal Mail) "Iron Lady" Grantham Prime Minister pmk. Dated 14/10/2014 as well as the scarce Big Ben Anniv. postmark dated 11/2/2015. This cover which is mostly in collectors hands is rarely offered for salePrice £23

RA. 8 DESERT RATS WAR COVER - A Sought after British Cover issued for the 70th Anniv. of the Desert Rats Battle for Miglano on 1/12/1944. The cover depicts Miglano and the iconic Desert Rat Emblem, it bears the British Spitfire Commemorative with scarce B.F.P.O 3181 Desert Rats 7th Armoured Brigade Postmark. On the Anniv. Date 1/12/14. Most of this scarce cover are now in specialist collections.....Recommended at our Price of £12.50

HRH. R3 KING RICHARD III - An important historic cover issued for the reburial of Richard III "The Last Plantagenet King of England". The cover depicts King Richard who was buried at Leicester Cathedral 530 years after his death at the battle of Bosworth Field. Only 60 of this scarce covers are in existence. The historic cover bears the British Royal Lion stamp postmarked with the official Royal Mail illustrated "Rest in Peace" Leicester Cathedral Pmk.. on 26/3/2015. Few availablePrice £16

SC. 94 SPANISH COLONIES AND SPAIN - A super collection of Spain with strength in Spanish Colonies mint and used in singles and blocks, including scarce unmounted mint blocks dating back to 1899. Noted, postal workers charity issues and Spanish Civil War. 120+ stampsPrice £15

SH. 73 SHETLAND ISLANDS - Impressive cover for "Up-Helly-AA" The Viking Fire festival at Lerwick, when a Viking long boat is set on fire. The cover bears the Shetland Island Local Stamps depicting Vikings and a blazing Viking ship tied to the cover with Hildasay - Shetland Island cachet in blue, in combination with Royal Mail Stamp postmarked with the Celtic "Up-Helly-AA" Lerwick pmkPrice £13.25



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UK & WORLDWIDE EXHIBITION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 12-15 GREECE

Notos 2015 Multinational Exhibition

Venue: Peristeri Exhibition Centre, Dodekanisou 106, 12135 Peristeri, Athens.

Contact: Hellenic Philatelic Society
www.hps.gr/notos2015
notos2015@hps.gr

NOVEMBER 20-23 HONG KONG

Hong Kong 2015 Asian International Stamp Exhibition

Venue: Hall 56, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Contact: Hong Kong Philatelic Society, GPO Box 446, Hong Kong
hkpsociety@yahoo.com
www.hongkong2015stampexpo.com

DECEMBER 3-5 MONACO

Monacophil 2015

Venue: Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, 11 Terrasses de Fontvieille, 98000 Monaco.

Contact: Patrick Maselis, General Commissioner
Tel: +32 474 84 84 39
patrick@maselis.be
www.monacophil.eu

JANUARY 22-24 USA

Sandical

Venue: Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego, California 92111.

Contact: Linda Mabin
Tel: +1 619 582 9311
mabin7@cox.net
www.sandical.org

JANUARY 29-31 USA

Southeastern Stamp Expo

Venue: Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, Georgia 30092.

Contact: Scott Mark
sestampexpo@gmail.com
www.sefsc.org

FEBRUARY 17-20 UK

Spring Stampex

Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.

Contact: Graham Childs, PO Box 981, Southsea, Hampshire PO1 9PG
Tel: 023 9283 2289
info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

FEBRUARY 26-28 USA

Texpex 2016

Venue: Hilton DFW Lakes Executive

Conference Center, 1800 Highway 26E, Grapevine, Texas 76051.

Contact: Vince King
vking@entechdesign.com
www.texasphilatelic.org/txpex

MARCH 18-20 AUSTRALIA

Canberra Stampshow 2016

Venue: Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden, Canberra

Contact: Exhibition Secretary, Canberra Stampshow 2016, GPO Box 1840, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia
canberrastampshow2016@gmail.com
www.canberrastamps.org

APRIL 30-MAY 1 CANADA

Orapex

Venue: RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Contact: info@orapex.ca
www.orapex.ca

MAY 12-14 GERMANY

Essen International Stamp Fair

Venue: Messehaus Ost, Essen Exhibition Centre, Norbertstrasse 2, 45131 Essen.

Contact: Jan Billion, Messeagentur, Postfach 108 254, 40863 Ratingen, Germany
Tel: +49 2102 50675
info@briefmarkenmesse-essen.de

MAY 28-JUNE 4 USA

New York 2016 World Stamp Show

Venue: Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York City.

Contact: Thomas M Fortunato
Tel: +1 585 225 6822
info@ny2016.org
www.ny2016.org

JUNE 17-18 USA

Okpex

Venue: Reed Conference Center, 5800 Will Rogers Road, Midwest City, Oklahoma 73110.

Contact: Joe Crosby
Tel: +1 405 749 0930
joecrosby@cox.net
www.okcs.org

JULY 21-24 UK

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

Venue: Cambridge Belfry Hotel, Back Lane, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6BW.

Contact: www.gbcongress.uk

AUGUST 4-7 USA

APS StampShow

Venue: Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr

Boulevard, Portland, Oregon 97232.

Contact: American Philatelic Society, 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823, USA.
Tel: +1 814 933 3803 ext 217
Fax: +1 814 933 6128
www.stamps.org

SEPTEMBER 14-17 UK

Autumn Stampex

Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.

Contact: Graham Childs, PO Box 981, Southsea, Hampshire PO1 9PG
Tel: 023 9283 2289
info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

OCTOBER 21-26 TAIWAN

Philat Taipei 2016 World Stamp Exhibition

Venue: World Trade Centre, Exhibition Hall 1, Xinyi District, Taipei, Taiwan.

Contact: Organising Committee, Room 402, 55 Jinshan S Road, Sec 2, Taipei 10603, Taiwan
Tel: +886 2 2391 2088
Fax: +886 2 2396 9125
philataipei2016@mail.post.gov.tw
www.taipei2016.post.gov.tw/post/taipei2016/en



ABOVE: The Notos 2015 Multinational Exhibition takes place in November in a suburb of Athens, commuting distance from the city centre and the fabulous Acropolis

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

UK & WORLDWIDE AUCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 9-12

GROSVENOR

100th Grosvenor Auction Week

Venue: 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT.

Contact: Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

Tel: 020 7379 8789

Fax: 020 7379 9737

info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

www.grosvenorauctions.com

NOVEMBER 11

AJH STAMPS

Venue: The Dunkenhagh Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.

Contact: The Laurels, Manchester

Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF

Tel: 01254 393740

Fax: 01254 382274

sales@ajhstamps.co.uk

www.ajhstamps.co.uk

NOVEMBER 18-21

CORINPHILA

Venue: Wiesenstrasse 8, 8034 Zurich, Switzerland.

Contact: Corinthia Auktionen

Tel: +41 443899191

Fax: +41 443899195

www.corinphila.ch

NOVEMBER 21

CAMBRIDGESHIRE PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

Venue: The Maltings, Ship Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4BB.

Contact: 27 Fore Hill, Ely,

Cambridgeshire CB7 4AA

Tel: 01353 663 919

info@cpa-ely.co.uk

www.cpa-ely.co.uk

NOVEMBER 21

EPSOM STAMP CO

Venue: St George's Christian Centre, Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2DA.

Contact: Epsom Stamp Co, 23

Waterloo Road, Epsom KT19 8EX

Tel: 01372 720051

info@epsomstamp.co.uk

www.epsomstamp.co.uk

NOVEMBER 22

TONY LESTER

Venue: Holiday Inn, London Road (A45), Coventry CV8 3DY.

Contact: Unit 2, The Sidings,

Birdingbury Road, Marton, Rugby,

Warwickshire CV23 9RX

Tel: 01926 634809

Fax: 01926 634819

tonylester@btconnect.co.uk

www.tonylester.co.uk

NOVEMBER 23

ROBERT MURRAY STAMP SHOP

Venue: Stewart's Melville Club Pavilion, 523 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DW.

Contact: Robert Murray Stamp Shop,

5-6 Inverleith Gardens, Edinburgh

EH3 5PU

Tel: 0131 552 1220

murray@stamp-shop.com

www.stamp-shop.com

NOVEMBER 27

EDGAR MOHRMANN

North German States &

Scandinavia

Venue: Bärenallee 43, D-22041

Hamburg, Germany.

Contact: Edgar Mohrmann

Tel: +49 40 68 94 70 0

Fax: +49 40 68 94 70 19

www.edgar-mohrmann.de

NOVEMBER 29

ESSEX STAMP AUCTIONS

Venue: Marriott Hotel, Old Shire

Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 3LX.

Contact: Essex Stamp Auctions,

Three Ashes Cottage, Lanham Green

Road, Cressing, Braintree, Essex

CM77 8DR

Tel: 01376 585357

rob@essexstampauctions.com

www.essexstampauctions.com

DECEMBER 2

WARWICK & WARWICK

Venue: The Greville Suite, Lord

Leycester Hotel, Jury Street, Warwick

CV34 4EJ.

Contact: Chalon House, Scar Bank,

Millers Road, Warwick CV34 5DB

Tel: 01926 499031

Fax: 01926 491906

info@warwickandwarwick.com

www.warwickandwarwick.com

DECEMBER 6

PROVINCIAL

PHILATELICS

Venue: 90 Park Road, Didcot,

Oxfordshire OX11 8QR.

Contact: Provincial Philatelics

Tel/Fax: 01235 511083

www.provincialphilatelics.co.uk

DECEMBER 8-11

DAVID FELDMAN

Tatiana Collection of British

Empire & All World

Venue: 175 Route de Chancy, 1213

Onex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Contact: David Feldman

Tel: +41 22 727 07 77

Fax: +41 22 727 07 78

info@davidfeldman.com

www.davidfeldman.com

DECEMBER 9

AJH STAMPS

Venue: The Dunkenhagh Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.

Contact: The Laurels, Manchester

Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF

Tel: 01254 393740

sales@ajhstamps.co.uk

www.ajhstamps.co.uk

DECEMBER 9

BSA AUCTIONS

Venue: Units 1 & 2 Cantilupe Court,

Cantilupe Road, Ross on Wye,

Herefordshire HR9 7AN.

Contact: BSA Auctions

Tel: 01989 769529

www.birmauctions.co.uk

DECEMBER 12

BIL & CO

Venue: Washingborough Community

Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough,

Lincoln LN4 1AB.

Contact: Bil Tilbury

Tel: 01400 230769

biltilbury@btinternet.com

www.bilandco.co.uk

DECEMBER 12-14

JOHN BULL

Venue: 7/F Kwong Fat Hong Building,

1 Rumsey Street, Sheung Wan,

Hong Kong.

Contact: John Bull Stamp Auctions

Tel: +852 2890 5767

Fax: +852 2576 5110

info@jbull.com

www.jbull.com

DECEMBER 14

KARAMITSOS

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Vasilissis Sofias

46, Athens 115 28, Greece.

Contact: A Karamitsos, 34 Tsimiski

Street, 54623 Thessaloniki, Greece.

Tel: +30 2310 264 366

Fax: +30 2310 274 031

karamitsos@karamitsos.gr

www.karamitsos.com

LOT TO BE DESIRED

Karamitsos' November auction includes this creative registered cover, lovingly put together by an artistic soul, which would add amusement to any first flights collection.

Flown on the first flight from Athens in Greece to Darwin in Australia, on December 10, 1934, it was unclaimed at its destination and returned to sender via Singapore and Port Taufiq in Egypt.

It could be yours for an estimated £15!



ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POSTAL SALES

APEX

Tel: 01342 833413

info@apexstamps.com

www.apexstamp.com

COUNTY

county@stampauctions.co.uk

www.stampauctions.co.uk

MOWBRAY

Tel: +64 6 364 8270

mowbray.stamps@xtra.co.nz

www.mowbrays.co.nz

SANDAFAYRE

Tel: 01565 653214

stamp@sandafayre.com

www.sandafayre.com

UNIVERSAL

Tel: 01451 861111

info@upstampauctions.co.uk

www.upstampauctions.co.uk

VANCE

Tel: +1 905 957 3364

mail@vanceauctions.com

www.vanceauctions.com

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ONLINE SALES

DALKEITH

www.dalkeith-auctions.co.uk

DEL CAMPE

www.delcampe.net

MCCUSKER

www.jamesmccusker.com

MOWBRAY

www.mowbrays.co.nz

PHILATINO

www.philatino.com

RASMUSSEN

www.bruun-rasmussen.dk

REGENCY

www.regencystamps.com

ROGERS

www.michaelrogersinc.com

SAMMARINSE

www.filsam.com

SANDAFAYRE

www.sandafayre.com

SKANFIL

www.skanfil.no

STAMP CENTER

www.thestampcenter.com

STAMPFAIR

www.stampfair.com

STANLEY GIBBONS

www.stanleygibbons.com

TORRES

www.antoniotorres.com

TRAFFORD BOOKS

www.traffordbooks.co.uk

UK FAIR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 11 CHELTENHAM (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: St Andrews United Reform Church, Montpelier Street, GL50 1SP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Mark Grimsley
Tel: 0117 9623203

NOVEMBER 14 BRISTOL (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, BS11 9TX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Noble Fairs
Tel: 07599 001101

COLWYN BAY (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Eirias High School, Eirias Road, LL29 7SP.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: S J Chapman
Tel: 01745 826434

CRAWLEY (stamps, postal history)

Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Woodfield Road, Northgate, RH10 8ER.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

LITTLEHAMPTON (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: United Church, 1 High Street, BN17 5EG.
Time: 10am-3.30pm

Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

MAIDSTONE (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Grove Green Community Centre, ME14 5BT.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

NORTON (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Northern Stamp & Postcard Fairs
Tel: 01904 701464

RUISLIP (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, HA4 7DQ.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

SOUTHAMPTON (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Methodist Hall, St James Road, Shirley, SO15 5HE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

NOVEMBER 15 ALTRINCHAM (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.

Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

AMERSHAM (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, HP7 0BT.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

KNOWLE (stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Village Hall, St John's Close, B93 0NH.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
Tel: 07765 792998

NEWHAVEN (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Denton Social Centre, Denton, BN9 0PX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: E G Langdon
Tel: 01273 514733

ROCHESTER (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Masonic Hall, Gundulph Square, ME1 1DD.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

NOVEMBER 20 LONDON (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.

To include an event in this listing, we need at least two months' notice.
Send details to What's On, Stamp Magazine, MyTimeMedia Ltd,
Enterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HG.
E-mail: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

Time: 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

NOVEMBER 21 BASINGSTOKE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: The Costello School, Crossborough Hill, RG21 4AL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Paula Cant
Tel: 01256 415699

BRIGHTON (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Hove, BN1 5AE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

KENILWORTH (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, CV8 2DA.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

PRESTON (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road (A6), PR3 5AA.
Time: 9.30am-4.00pm
Contact: John Roberts
Tel: 07943 174958

ROSS-ON-WYE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Units 1 & 2, Cantilupe Court, Cantilupe Road, HR9 7AN.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: BSA Auctions
Tel: 01989 769529

SITTINGBOURNE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, off West Street, ME10 1JB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

WESTON-SUPER-MARE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, BS23 1XU.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Michael Hale
Tel: 01749 677669

NOVEMBER 26 PLYMOUTH (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Guildhall, Armada Way, PL1 2ER.

Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

NOVEMBER 27 CLYST ST GEORGE (stamps)

Venue: Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, EX3 0RE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

NOVEMBER 28 EALING (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Polygon Complex, Ealing Parish Church, St Mary's Road, W5 5EU.
Time: 9am-1pm
Contact: T Brittain
Tel: 07957 158299

GUILDFORD (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, GU2 7QR.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

KEYNSHAM (stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Fear Institute, Keynsham High Street, BS31 1DG.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: Kevin Noble Fairs
Tel: 07599 001101

NORTHAMPTON (stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Abbey Centre, Overslade Close, East Hunsbury, NN4 0RZ.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Dave Foster
Tel: 0115 9614528

SUTTON COLDFIELD (stamps, postal history)

Venue: The Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Mill Street, B72 1TF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

TROWBRIDGE (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: St James Church Hall, Uniton Street, BA14 8RU.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

WANSTEAD (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Wanstead Library, Spratt Hall Road, E11 2RQ.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122



WHITTON (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Twickenham Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, TW2 6JL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

NOVEMBER 29 ASCOT (stamps, postal history)

Venue: British Red Cross Centre, Heatherwood Hospital Entrance 3, Kings Ride, SL5 7RD.
Time: 9am-1pm
Contact: T Brittain
Tel: 07957 158299

RUGBY (stamps, postal history, postcards)

Venue: Benn Hall, Newbold Road, CV21 2LN.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Simon Hemmings
Tel: 07792 603334

SOUTHPORT (stamps, postal history)

Venue: Royal Clifton Hotel, The Promenade, PR8 1RB.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

STEVENAGE (stamps, postal history)





Venue: Novotel, Knebworth Park, SG1 2AX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
 Tel: 07710 683122

UCKFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, TN22 5TG.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
 Tel: 01903 244875

DECEMBER 2
NEATH

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Town Hall, SA11 3LL.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
 Tel: 01522 857343

DECEMBER 3
CARDIFF
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
 Tel: 01522 857343

DECEMBER 5
BECKENHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: R&L Stamps
 Tel: 020 8395 9285

BEXHILL-ON-SEA
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Little Common, TN39 4SL.
Time: 10am-4pm

Contact: M J Perriman
 Tel: 01903 244875

BOURNEMOUTH
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Kinson, BH10 7LH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
 Tel: 01489 582673

HUDDERSFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Thomas Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, HD1 3HU.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: A Campbell
 Tel: 01484 681559

LEICESTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Derby Room, Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, LE1 5LX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: John Suschitzky
 Tel: 0116 2350441

LICHFIELD
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, WS14 9XU.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
 Tel: 01785 259350

RAWRETH
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Parish Hall, Church Lane, SS11 8SH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Steve Search
 Tel: 01702 323682

RUISLIP
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, HA4 7DQ.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
 Tel: 01895 637283

STOURBRIDGE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Platters Cafe, Victoria Street, DY8 1SP.
Time: 9.30am-2pm
Contact: Chris Proctor
 Tel: 07813 260752

SWINDON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Western Community Centre, Somerset Road, Rodbourne Cheney, SN2 1NF.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: V R Bullock
 Tel: 07507 121990

DECEMBER 6
ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
 Tel: 01484 866777

CHELTENHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Regency Hotel, Gloucester Road, Stevertown, GL51 0ST.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Mark Grimsley
 Tel: 0117 9623203

TAPLOW
(stamps, postcards, covers)
Venue: Taplow & Hitcham Woman's Institute Hall, Institute Road, SL6 0NS.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
 Tel: 01895 637283

DECEMBER 11
LONDON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Royal National Hotel, Galleon Suite, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
 Tel: 020 8946 4489

DECEMBER 12
EASTBOURNE

(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, BN22 9PP.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
 Tel: 07711 677760

GREAT BARR
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, B43 7NF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
 Tel: 07765 792998

NORTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Northern Stamp & Postcard Fairs
 Tel: 01904 701464

PRESTON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road (A6), PR3 5AA.
Time: 9.30am-4.00pm
Contact: John Roberts
 Tel: 07943 174958

READING
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Barnabas Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8LN.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
 Tel: 01895 637283

REDBOURN
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Redbourn Village Hall, 63 High Street, AL3 7LW.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
 Tel: 07710 683122

DECEMBER 13
LUTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Ramada Encore, Airport Way, Luton Airport, LU2 9LF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
 Tel: 07710 683122

WOKINGHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
 Tel: 01923 674999



SELECTED UK PHILATELIC SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER 10 BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT PS

Canada by John Davis
Venue: Church Institute, The Street, Great Barton, IP31 2NP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rod Finn
Tel: 01379 898292

CRAWLEY & DISTRICT PS Great Churches of the Middle Ages

by Brian Doherty
Venue: Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6QZ.

Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01293 408598

ROCHDALE PS

**Central Europe
by Derek Burton**
Venue: Unitarian Chapel, Clover Street, Rochdale OL12 6TP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Neil Wharmby
Tel: 01706 665698

SOLIHULL PS

**The Occupation of Europe in
World War II by R Sheppard**
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane,

Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776879

YORK PS

Annual Club Auction
Venue: The Denham Room, Priory Street Centre, Priory Street, YO1 6ET.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Richard M Billinge
Tel: 01904 411455

NOVEMBER 11 BEDFORD PS

**POW Mail of Singapore in
World War II by David Tett**
Venue: The Bunyan Meeting

Free Church, Mill Street, MK40 3EU.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Julie Barnard
Tel: 01234 765092

BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS

**Umbrellas & Parasols
by Michael Blackman**
Venue: Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham, BR3 5JE.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Davie Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

NOVEMBER 12 MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS

**Early Great Britain
by Ian Marshall**
Venue: Mote Park Indoor Bowls Club, Willow Way, Maidstone, ME15 7RN.
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

NOVEMBER 17 SOLIHULL PS

**Transatlantic Mail
by F Bennett**
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776879

WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT PS

**Cinderellas
by Mike Warwick**
Venue: Residents' Pavilion, 129 Grand Drive, SW20 9LY.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Barbara Priddy
Tel: 020 8946 6224

NOVEMBER 19 BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS

Cinderella Stamp Evening
Venue: Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, Burnley, BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: B W Evans
Tel: 01282 437272

NOVEMBER 24 CRAWLEY & DISTRICT PS

**Labrador Mail Steamers
by Brian Stalker**
Venue: Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6QZ.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01293 408598

SOLIHULL PS

Anti-Communism in Europe

**1919-1945
by A Bosworth**
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull, B91 2PF.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776879

NOVEMBER 25 BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS

**French Colonial Aviation
by Len Barnes**
Venue: Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham, BR3 5JE.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Davie Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

NOVEMBER 26 BRISTOL PS

**Aspects of Nigeria
by Tony Nicholson**
Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rosemary Atkins
Tel: 01179 504427

DECEMBER 1 SOLIHULL PS

**1949 UPU Commercial
Covers by P Webber**
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776879

DECEMBER 2 GRIMSBY & DISTRICT PS

Christmas Charity Auction
Venue: Grimsby Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG.
Time: 6pm
Contact: John Mileman
Tel: 01472 827396

SPALDING & DISTRICT SC

**Egg Cup Competition &
Bring and Buy Sale**
Venue: The Frasier Room, Gosberton Road, Surfleet, PE11 4AB.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Frank Wilson
Tel: 01775 766117

DECEMBER 3 BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS

**Christmas Social Thematic
Displays & Bourse**
Venue: Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, Burnley BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm

Contact: B W Evans
Tel: 01282 437272

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS

**Germany 1939-1945
by John Rawlings**
Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone, ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

DECEMBER 7 PETERSFIELD PS

Chairman's Night
Venue: Petersfield Community Centre, Petersfield, GU31 4BW.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Tony Shaw
Tel: 01730 264518

DECEMBER 8 BURY ST EDMUNDS & DISTRICT PS

**Social Evening, One-Sheet
Competition & Quiz**
Venue: Church Institute, The Street, Great Barton, IP31 2NP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rod Finn
Tel: 01379 898292

ROCHDALE PS

**Members' Displays &
Pie-and-Pea Supper**
Venue: Unitarian Chapel, Clover Street, OL12 6TP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Neil Wharmby
Tel: 01706 665698

DECEMBER 9 BEDFORD PS

**Christmas Social &
Egg Cup Competition**
Venue: The Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford, MK40 3EU.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Julie Barnard
Tel: 01234 765092

DECEMBER 10 BRISTOL PS

Philatelic Quiz & Raffle
Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rosemary Atkins
Tel: 01179 504427

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS

**Royal British Legion
by Godfrey Prior**
Venue: Mote Park Indoor Bowls Club, Willow Way, ME15 7RN.
Time: 10.30am
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

DUNDEE & DISTRICT PS

Dundee & District Philatelic Society's first meeting of the 2015-16 session featured the traditional President's Night display, given by Francis Podger in his second year in the role.

This featured World War II censored mail from Singapore, with his informative talk giving a clear insight into the subject.

The evening also offered members the opportunity to congratulate the speaker on his success at the International Exhibition in Singapore where he received a gold medal for his exhibit of Singapore revenues and a silver for his book on the same subject. His wife, Lynn, even baked a cake topped with an icing map of Singapore.

Meetings are held from September to April, usually on alternate Thursdays from 7.30pm, at the Dundee Art Society, 17 Roseangle, Dundee.

For more details visit www.dundeephilatelic.org



ABOVE: Francis Podger with his display of Singapore wartime censored mail

Perhaps then they realise that only some of what they may have glistening is 'gold'. Indiscriminate internet auction bidders buying 1,000's of low price items ... may have spent large sums IN TOTAL ... but may not have created desirable collections. The cost of a low priced item is the labour and cost of selling it. Nothing changes when that item comes to being re-sold.

TIP 5). Now let's look at Public Auction. Yes – you will be hard pressed to find a Public Stamp Auction that does not accept on-line / live internet bidding. As with 'Pure Internet' stamp sales – and perhaps even more so – 'Caveat Emptor' (buyer beware becomes even more the mantra. Generally individual lots may have higher average values so that lots offered are often higher value collections, accumulations or higher value sets / singles / rarities. Such auctions are the 'haunts' of dealers and astute buyers ... but risk is attached, plus the absence of guarantees and the pernicious unpleasant buyer's premium + other charges which at certain auctions can convert a £1000 stamp purchase into as much as an invoice for £1,300.

TIP 5a). There are bargains to be had – but it is very much a 'big boys' playing field. Some of these auctions deliberately under-estimate lots that they know are worth far more ... so that they can then have the dubious pleasure of publicising that a £1,000 estimated lot realised £10,000, when perhaps their knowledge suggested it should have been estimated at upwards of £5,000 in the first place ... (hence – how wonderful they are).

TIP 5b). For certain types of lots such as actual Collections offered fairly intact the absence of guarantee combined with unreliable estimate means that for those who do not physically view a Public Stamp Auction and bid 'blind' – this is a dangerous place to be. Of course this may work to the advantage of an astute bidder who is actually present to physically view lots in the auction room. Historically that person was usually a Dealer. Perhaps less so these days.

TIP 6). Finally we come to look at Postal Auctions/ Mail-Bid Sales. First I must profess that I have an interest in a Mail-Bid / Postal Auction Sale. My company U P A conducts the largest postal auctions in the U K ... What should the Collector or Dealer be looking for here?

TIP 6a). Most good Postal Auctions including U P A offer Collectors a **No Quibble Refund Guarantee (NQRG)** ... and by 'No Quibble' I mean **NO QUIBBLE**. Look for this – it is crucial. You are probably not

actually seeing the stamps before bidding ... so no guarantee would mean unacceptable risk.

TIP 6b). Unlike Public Auctions most Postal Auctions 'break' many collections into smaller 'collector-sized' units so that you may find what you seek without having to purchase what you do not need - it follows that most of the stamps in most postal auctions may be owned by the company presenting the auction. It is not viable to sell low priced lots on a commission basis. Ask yourself why you may be asked to pay a buyer's premium? Is it actually a Vendor's lot or owned by 'The House'?

TIP 6c). The Buyer's Premium was introduced to 'split' cost between buyer and seller so that a 'low' seller's commission looks attractive (if you forget about the premium the buyer is paying for the seller's stamps). Be aware of this or deal with auctions not charging a buyer's premium. You are in control. You can bid anywhere that you find what you seek – but it is good to be aware and informed.

TIP 6d). Prices Realised are IMPORTANT. For some unknown reason – even some larger Postal / Mail-Bid Auctions still do not produce lists of what their lots sold for after the auction. Look for auctions providing this feature – it provides reassurance combined with a trackable 'snapshot' of current market values PLUS what is selling and what is not selling. You can learn such a lot from 'Prices Realised' – I study them each day.

TIP 7). Credit Cards. 75% of some auction sales are settled by credit / debit card. The Biggest in the land has no need to charge you for use of them ... Sheer volume of business accesses lowest rates. Why are you paying a premium to use your card? Is the supplier making a profit upon the extra % you are charged to use your card?

TIP 8). Look for unique 'Collector friendly' benefits that turn the disadvantage of lots not being sold to your advantage. U P A, for example, has for the past 15 years offered their Unique Reducing Estimate System (**URES**) whereby lots are increasingly reduced in estimate price till sold – some have reached one penny and then sold. Approaching one million lots have been offered through this system.

TIP 9). Cost of Delivery is one of the most annoying hidden costs that collectors absolutely abhor. Look for transparency in this area.

TIP 10). Beware the Seller / Auction NOT including Insurance when sending your winnings.

And Finally We come to choice ... and mind-set ?

TIP Without Choice we have nothing. So it follows that you need substantial choice to form a good, even great, stamp collection. You cannot do business when each time you 'visit' all you see is what you have seen before – stagnating stocks offered at prices that ensure continued stagnation. If choice is limited you'll never find philatelic items you need – or even that you were unaware of their existence. That's the joy of collecting. The thrill of the unexpected, the chance find. You need dealers that want to help and auctions that wish to serve – so, in stamps 'attitude is all'.

So when you're searching for a stamp auction compare it against your list above of what to look for and if and when you're offered a 'No Risk Free Trial' ... please **turn to P.27**-take it Now ♦

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YOUR IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO THE LATEST RELEASES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This directory lists Great Britain first, followed by other countries in alphabetical order. It is limited to countries in which stamp issues are sold in post offices and for which reliable information is available. We aim to keep our listing as up-to-date as possible, but in attempting to provide more comprehensive detail than other guides we do not necessarily list every country each month. The three-digit number which appears before the date of each issue is for cross-referencing with the Thematic Checklist at the end of this section.



009 ALDERNEY
Queen Elizabeth II



011 ANDORRA
The Chamois



015 ANDORRA
Extreme Sports



018 BAHAMAS
Girl Guides Association

GREAT BRITAIN

(last listed in Nov 2015 issue)

001 Aug, 2015

Definitive. Long To Reign Over Us

Design: Jeffery Matthews, after sculpture by Arnold Machin.

Printing: gravure, De La Rue. Two phosphor bands. Die-cut perf 14 3/4 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 100 (2 x 50).

1st (63p) Machin profile of Queen Elizabeth II, in 'amethyst purple', with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

Note: issue notes Queen Elizabeth II, becoming the longest reigning monarch in Britain's history on September 9, 2015. Security overlay contains the year code '015R' (instead of 'Over') to the left of the Queen's neck. Source code is 'GN' (from 'Reign'), to right of lowest part of Queen's hair, intersected by the security cut. Printing dates of June 4 and June 5 have been reported from sheet margins. Sheets were distributed to post offices with an intended date of release of September 9, but earlier dates of use are reported from postmarked examples, starting as early as August 20

002 Aug 20, 2015

The Gurkhas. Celebrating 200 Years of Service

Design: CDT Design (sheetlet) and Dick Davis from illustration by Anton Morris (Union Flag stamp).

Printing: litho, International Security Printers (Cartor).

Self-adhesive commemorative sheet: 10 stamps, each with an adjacent label.

1st (63p) x 10 Union flag
Labels (prints and photographs): the Gurkha Brigade, 19th century; defence of Delhi Bridge during Indian Mutiny, 1850s; Battle of Dargai during Pathan uprising, 1897; Gurkhas in trenches during World War I; Gurkha soldiers in World War II; riverborne troops during Borneo campaign, 1963-1966; Gurkha battalion in the Falklands War, 1982; Gurkha Brigade in Afghanistan, from 2000; Gurkha traditions (soldier in remembrance contemplation, and Himalayas); veteran saluting, noting Gurkha Welfare Trust

Note: sheetlet was sold in a pack at £14.95 (face value £6.30)

003 Sept 9, 2015

Definitive. Long To Reign Over Us

Design: Jeffery Matthews, after sculpture by Arnold Machin.

Printing: gravure, International Security Printers (Walsall). Two phosphor bands. Die-cut perf 14 3/4 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides.

Self-adhesive booklet (£3.78): 6 stamps and 1 label.

1st (63p) x 6 Machin profile of Queen Elizabeth II, in 'amethyst purple', with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

Label: 'Long To Reign Over Us' (narrow label sideways to right of stamps)

Cover: '6 x 1st' and Royal Mail Logo, on amethyst purple background

Inside-front panel: recent portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in the colour of the stamp

Note: overlay contains the year code '015R' (instead of 'Over'). Source code is 'GS' (replacing 'GN' of 'Reign')

004 Sept 9, 2015

Long To Reign Over Us

Design: Sedley Place.

Printing: gravure (Machin definitive) or recess with iridescent ink (other four designs), FNMT, Spain, contracted to ISP. Perf 14.7 x 13.9 with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides (Machin definitive), or perf 14.2 x 13.9 (other four designs). Two phosphor bands. Regular gum.

Miniature sheet:

1st (63p) William Wyon's 'City Medal' depicting Queen Victoria, 1837, and profile of Queen Elizabeth II (engraved, after Machin design), in deep dull red, with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

1st (63p) three-quarter profile of Queen Elizabeth II (engraved after Dorothy Wilding photograph of 1952), and profile of Queen Elizabeth II (engraved, after Machin design), in deep dull red, with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

1st (63p) Machin profile of Queen Elizabeth II, in 'amethyst purple', with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

£1.52

Badge of the House of Windsor (created in 1938 at the behest of King George VI) featuring Round Tower of Windsor Castle flying the Royal Standard, and profile of Queen Elizabeth II (engraved, after Machin design) in purple, with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

£1.52

Queen Elizabeth II's personal flag ('E' surmounted crown, created in 1960), and profile of Queen Elizabeth II (engraved, after Machin design) in purple, with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'

Border: information on stamp designs

Note: the security overlay in the third design (as definitive issue of August 2015 but gummed) includes the year code '015R' (instead of 'Over') to the left of the Queen's neck, and source code 'GM' (replacing GN of 'Reign') to right of Queen's hair. Uncut press sheets of four miniature sheets (1 x 4, imperf between), with wide margins containing the various printer's marks, were available philatelically at £21.70

005 Sept 16, 2015

Post & Go. Sea Travel

Design: Osborne Ross, from digital illustrations by Andy Toohy. All designs show cruising destinations as viewed from on board cruise ships.

Printing (base labels): gravure, International Security Printers, with value and coding added thermographically by machine. Die-cut perforations.

Self-adhesive vending machine labels: designs in sequence on rolls.

- + White Cliffs of Dover, seen from deck of departing ship
- + skyscrapers of Hong Kong, seen through porthole at night
- + Sydney Opera House and yachts, Australia, seen through porthole
- + limestone sea stack formations of Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, seen from deck
- + Statue of Liberty and skyscrapers of New York City, USA, seen from deck
- + canalside palace and gondola in Venice, Italy, and bow of anchored ship

Note: a strip of six denominated '1st class up to 100g' was available from philatelic outlets, in a presentation pack

006 Sept 17, 2015

Animals of the First World War

Design: CDT Design (sheetlet) and Dick Davis, from illustration by Anton Morris (Union Flag stamp).

Printing: litho, International Security Printers (Cartor).

Self-adhesive commemorative sheet: 10 stamps, each with an adjacent label.

1st (63p) x 10 Union flag
Labels (photographs): carrier pigeon about to be released at Sorrus, France, June 1918; cavalry of British Expeditionary Force arriving in Belgium,

August 1914; dog which has just swum a canal delivering a message to Royal Engineer signaller, May 1918; Lewis gunner with regimental cat mascot, in trench; camels carrying wounded soldiers, India, 1917; horses being trained in gas-mask drill, France, May 1918; nurses of St John Ambulance with mascot Billy the dog, July 1917; Jim the Airedale terrier on coastguard patrol (watching for Zeppelins) in Kent; vixen cub mascot with pilot in aeroplane at Humières airfield, France, 1918; mules transporting shells through battlefield mud, Pickham Ridge, Belgium, August 1917
 Note: sheetlet was sold in a pack at £14.95 (face value £6.30)

007 Sept 18, 2015

8th Rugby World Cup, England

Design: Hat-Trick design, from illustrations by Geoff Appleton. All designs are monochrome and include the official Rugby World Cup 2015 emblem.

Printing: litho, International Security Printers (Cartor). Two phosphor bands (1st class, £1.00, £1.52), or single centre band (2nd class). Perf 14½ x 14.

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 60 (2 x 30) arranged in se-tenant pairs.

2nd (54p)	player running with ball being tackled around waist
2nd (54p)	forwards about to form scrum, with scrum-half holding ball
1st (63p)	player diving with ball to score try, whilst being tackled
1st (63p)	player about to attempt conversion kick after try
£1.00	winger passing ball to another player
£1.00	player completing a drop-goal (ball passing between goalposts)
£1.52	ball emerging from ruck
£1.52	players in line-out leaping for ball

008 Sept 18, 2015

8th Rugby World Cup, England

Design: Jeffery Matthews, after sculpture by Arnold Machin (definitives), or Hat-Trick design, from illustrations by Geoff Appleton (Rugby stamps).

Printing: gravure, De La Rue. Two phosphor bands. Die-cut perf 14 (rugby stamps) or die-cut perf 14½ x 14½ with elliptical cut-outs on vertical sides (definitives).

Self-adhesive booklet (£3.78):

1st (63p) x 1	player diving with ball to score try, whilst being tackled
1st (63p) x 6	Machin profile of Queen Elizabeth II in 'amythyst purple', with repeating security overlay text 'Long To Reign Over Us'
1st (63p) x 1	player about to attempt conversion kick

Cover: '6 x 1st' and Royal Mail logo

Note: the two rugby-themed stamps are set within illustrated surround (tournament emblem and stadium structure)

ALDERNEY

(last listed in Oct 2015)

009 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Bridget Yabsley, from photograph.

Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin. Perf 12.4

Sheetlet (5 x 1): 5 stamps in a horizontal strip. £10 x 5 Queen Elizabeth II photographed at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada, in July 2010

Border: inscription

Note: sheetlets have a serial number in the border at upper left. Single stamps were available from philatelic services, and affixed to official first day covers. The sheetlet was also sold imperforate in a souvenir folder, along with a £20 States of Guernsey banknote (Diamond Jubilee edition), at £95. In the Channel Islands, the Queen is officially known as the Duke of Normandy

ANDORRA

Spanish Post Offices

(last listed in June 2015)

010 Jan 13, 2015

The Romanesque. Our Lady of Meritxell

Printing: litho, Spanish State Mint. Non-denominated.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

A (0.42€) carved and gilded head of Our Lady of Meritxell

Note: replica of a statue dating from 12th century, destroyed by fire in 1972, housed in Meritxell Chapel

011 Feb 9, 2015

Fauna. The Chamois

Printing: litho, Spanish State Mint.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

1€ the chamois, *Rupicapra rupicapra*

012 March 2, 2015

25th anniversary of Higher Education in Andorra

Printing: litho, Spanish State Mint.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.55 25th anniversary and higher education logos

Note: colleges of nursing and computer science opened in 1988-1989 at San Julia de Loria, formed the basis of the University of Andorra, established in 1997. Many other subjects have been added in collaboration with the Open University of Cataluña, Spain

013 April 23, 2015

Europa 2015. Old Toy

Printing: litho.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.90€ spinning top from collection of Museo del Juguete de Cataluña in Figueres, Spain

014 May 11, 2015

Arts. The Venice Biennale

Printing: litho, Spanish State Mint.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

2.84€ *Between*, sculpture by Agustí Roqué (b1942)

015 June 10, 2015

Extreme Sports. Trialling

Design: from illustration by unreported artist.

Printing: litho, State Mint.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

1€ motorcycle triallist on forest trail, and marshal

Note: an event known as the Grand Prix of Andorra

is organised by the International Motorcycling Federation in Sant Julia de Loria. A bicycle trial also takes place

ASCENSION

(last listed in Oct 2015)

016 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs..

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps:

50p	portrait photograph of Queen Elizabeth II by Donald McKague, and souvenir publications for the Coronation in 1953
55p	Neil Armstrong, <i>Apollo 11</i> astronaut, photographed on the Moon in 1969, and the Queen at the Dominion Theatre, London, photographed by Ray Bellisario in 1969
65p	Avro Vulcan bomber in camouflage livery, and Queen in purple and white hat in Washington DC, photographed by Tim Graham, 1991
£1.60	<i>Spirit of Chartwell</i> (once a royal barge) sailing the Thames during Diamond Jubilee River Pageant in 2013, and Queen Elizabeth at Chelsea Pier, photographed by Bethany Clarke in 2013

BAHAMAS

(last listed in Oct 2015)

017 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs..

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (2 x 10).

15c	Queen Elizabeth II on way to State Opening of Parliament in 1953, and Bahamas 1953 Coronation commemorative stamp, mint and on first day cover
50c	Queen's visit to Princess Margaret Hospital in the Bahamas in 1966, and at premiere of the film <i>Born Free</i>
65c	Queen with Sir Milo Butler, Governor-General of the Bahamas, in 1975, and portrait wearing crown
70c	Queen in 1975 Prince Harry talking to scouts in the Bahamas, March 4, 2012, and Queen Elizabeth at Lord Mayor of London's Diamond Jubilee Reception, June 5, 2012, photographed by John Stilwell

018 Oct 1, 2015

The Bahamas Girl Guides Association

Design: Bee Design, from photographs. All designs include the centenary emblem, with dates 1915-2015.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (2 x 10).

15c	members of Rangers, Guides, Brownies and Sunflowers at entrance to Camp Discovery activity and camping site
25c	guide patrol pitching a tent on the Gwen French camping site at



017 BAHAMAS

Queen Elizabeth II



019 BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

Queen Elizabeth II

EXP 14. THE BRITISH - ICELANDIC EXPEDITION A scarce expedition cover for the British - Icelandic expedition of 1981. This is the official illustrated cover flown from the UK to KEFLAVIK (Iceland) and bears the P.O. expedition postmark. The cover has been additionally signed by Mike Todd, (Chairman of the B.S.A.C.) An important postal history cover for sale Price £12.

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CYL29 CYLINDER NUMBER BLOCKS A specialised collection of Great Britain & British Commonwealth cylinder number blocks. It is unusual to see such a large lot of different cylinder number blocks. 120 stamps in all unmounted mint cylinder number blocks Price £21.

LA39K BRITISH ISLES A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Duvon Island, Calm Is., Isle of Enderby, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stromo, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Gull of Man, Midasay - Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kitts, St Marys, Culvey Island, Sunda Island, Gough, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200 Price £47.25.

R26 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PROOFS: A specialised and most valuable collection of Printers PROOF STAMPS AND PROGRESSIVE PROOF STAMPS some stuck down on special Printers Cards together with Official authorised verification & check signatures. Rarely does such a precious collection get offered for sale, a total of TWENTY PROGRESSIVE PROOFS plus various Proofs Price £42.00

PH 165 GREAT BRITAIN POSTAL HISTORY POSTMISTRESS COVER A scarce cover signed by Doris Gray, The Postmistress of Haroldswick Post Office. A special Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp was produced in 1997 for Haroldswick P.O., the most northerly post office in Britain, specially postmarked by the Royal Mail at Unst, Shetland Island. Only 200 of this scarce cover were postmarked and signed by the Postmistress nearly two decades ago. Rarely offered for sale.....Price £10.

JOR.43K - JORDAN & TRANS JORDAN A superb collection of only unmounted mint stamps in blocks, pairs and singles. Impressive Trans Jordan early engraved stamps in blocks, following on to later Jordan issues. Over 100 stamps Price £13.75

Z33E UNORTHODOX STAMPS One of the most unusual collections we have ever seen assembled, with everything except normal stamps. Including triangular stamps, self adhesive 'free form', map shaped stamps, gold foil round (circular) stamps, diamond shapes, '3 dimensional' and others. Hundreds of different mint and used unorthodox stamps Price £13.

PM22 - HAROLD WILSON Scarce GB Political Cover, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Election of Harold Wilson as Prime Minister. The cover is illustrated with the iconic "Labour will get things done" poster and bears Royal Mail, Wilson stamps with official first day post mark and famous Harold Wilson quote: "The main essentials of a successful prime minister are sleep and a sense of history." Only fifty of this cover are known to exist, reposted on 16/10/14 with official Royal Mail "8lg Ben" postmark exactly fifty years to the day of his first election victory. Price £14

GB 32EP GREAT BRITAIN ACID RAIN ERROR STAMP A super GB stamp error has recently come to light. The error a "must" for any complete GB collection shows a "full stop" at the base of the 24p denomination. As it is a constant error only one such stamp appears in each sheet of 100 stamps. So, it is 99 times scarcer than the normal stamp (SG 1629) Many serious GB stamp collectors are now realising that their collections are incomplete without this important value denomination variety. We offer the Acid Rain error stamp, together with normal stamp for comparison. Price £8.75

K06. H2 KING GEORGE VI An impressive Collection of GB & British Colonial Stamps issued during King Geo VI reign. Mainly singles but includes some fine unmounted mint blocks. A vast range of countries covering the period 1937 - 1951. Hundreds of stamps (not counting extra stamps of earlier reigns). A great collection to build on Price £16.50

MS. 561 GB MINI SHEETS A specialised Collection of Great Britain Stamp Exhibition Miniature Sheets. Comprising of over a dozen mint miniature sheets issued for British Stamp Exhibitions. Include Stampex and International Exhibitions with Royal Mail postally valid sheets & scarcer sheets with post office approval, which were not available generally from the Royal Mail. The whole collection Price £9.75

WW1. 3K - WORLD WAR I LORD KITCHENER POSTAL HISTORY COVER A special cover for the centenary of the Gibraltar Garrison. The Staffordshire Brigade served under Kitchener in the 2nd Sudanese War, then continued during World War I at the Garrison in Gibraltar. This scarce postal history cover bears a British WWI commemorative stamp with Lord Kitchener "Your Country Needs You" illustrated Royal Mail postmark. Unusually, the cover also bears a Gibraltar Garrison Centenary cachet in red. Only 100 covers were ever issued and many in Gibraltar collector's hands Price £15.

Did you miss the boat or did you take our advice?

In 1973 we recommended and sold the British definitive 1/2p (SGX842) with one phosphor band on side. We told our customers to buy them at 25p each. WE WERE RIGHT!! If you had taken our advice, for an outlay of only £150 in 1973, the current catalogue value of your investment would be a staggering total of £20,000.

In 1999 we recommended our customers to buy the Princess Diana Welsh Language Presentation Packs. The catalogue value was only £2.50 each, but we were telling our customers to buy them for up to double catalogue value £5 each. Within only 6 years they had increased by 3,900%.

As everyone knows, investments can go down as well as up and the past is not necessarily a guide to the future. However, being selective and taking sound advice is the best way to make your hobby pay for itself.

In 2003 we recommended our customers to buy the Coronation £1 Green (SG 2380) which was catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £1.50 per stamp. Within 1 year the catalogue value had increased to £50 per stamp, an increase of over 3,200%.

Our customers complemented us once again saying, "Thank you again you were right".

M27A CORONATION STREET A specialised most unusual thematic collection of Coronation Street Stamps with COMPLETE UNM. MINT SETS. From various British Local Islands, including scarcer High Values and several £1.00 values. Personalities depicted on stamps include: Jack & Annie Walker, Stan & Hilda Ogden, Ken & Irma Barlow, Jack & Vera Duckworth, Martin Longhurst, Ena Sharples, Mike & Alma Baldwin, Kevin Webster, Naquet Wolstenholme, Ray Langton, Liz McDonald, Alf Roberts, Bet Gilroy, Carly Watts, Emily Bishop, Martin Platt, Leonard Swindly, Blake Tanner, Reg Holdsworth + others.....Price £12.00

LOT K2 GREAT BRITAIN UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted includes Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps only unmounted mint Price £21

E31 TIBET Fantastic group printed on rough and thin 'Native Type' paper including listed stamps and some shades and colours which appear not to be listed in Gibbons Catalogue. Included are blocks and singles some used on covers. Due to crudeness of the printing of this type of Tibet stamps, there is no way we can guarantee as genuine. If just some of the listed stamps were genuine the Catalogue Value would be hundreds of pounds. We have decided the safest way is to treat them as suspect and possible forgeries. As such we are offering them for sale at the knockdown price only.....Price £13

E28 POSTAGE DUES Unusual collection of POSTAGE DUE stamps, including GB, Br Cols and Foreign. In singles, blocks of multiples, all uncat. Mint (mostly unmounted) and used. About 120+ stamps Price 8.00

E32 GREAT BRITAIN SPECTACULAR ERROR on 1966 XMAS 3d. Value (SG713) SHIFT OF GOLD COLOUR, causing Queens Head Shift Error, superb unmtd mint together with normal stamp for comparison.....Price £4.25

VCA 4 - GREAT BRITAIN WWI VICTORIA CROSS COVER Issued to commemorate the Centenary of the first Victoria Cross to be awarded in World War I. The cover with illustration of Lieut. Maurice Dease VC, who died aged 24 in the first battle fought by the British against the Germans at Mons on 4. 23 Aug 1914. The cover bears a special Royal Mail VC stamp and postmarked with official Victoria Cross "For Valour" postmark on 23 Aug 14. The cover was restricted issue of only 100 covers and is vital to complete any WWI collection Price £9.25

ELS4. ELEPHANTS A gorgeous collection of elephants on stamps. With Indian and African elephants on stamps (Might include the odd mammoth). Mostly modern but dates back to 1861. With blocks and singles, mint and used. Over 100 stamps Price £7

SP27X SPACE Space, the final frontier. A small but impressive collection of outer space and space exploration camps. Including original 1969 moon landing cover and People's Republic of China space covers. Over 100+ mint and used stamps and miniature sheets. Noted mint Royal Mail Issues for Planetary Nebula in Norma & Aquila, Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus, Pegasus Galaxy. Also Russia mint issue for Yuri Gagarin, first man in space. A lovely lot Price £14.50

SA 92 SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA A fantastic accumulation comprising of only unmounted mint stamps in part sheets, multiples, blocks and singles ranging from older engraved stamps to the more recent. Includes: Nicaragua, (Underprints noted) Chile, Columbia, Argentina, Venezuela, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico & Dominica. This hoard of unsorted unmounted mint stamps, is unchecked for catalogue value and is estimated at over one thousand five hundred (1500) Unm. Mint stamps. For sale at the low price of only.....Price £48

M6 PRINCESS DIANA Worldwide collection. Some 10981 Wedding Issues, also Prince William Birth, including scarcer sheetlets, V SCARCE GUTTER PAIR F.D.C.'s SIGNED BY THE DESIGNER (stamp designer) also various worldwide 1997 Princess Diana Memorial Issues. The whole collection Price £13

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- 50c Camp Discovery
guides building a camp fire
- 65c guide rangers in kayaks
- 70c brownies assisting aged resident, who shares with them tales of her past life on Long Island
- 80c group photograph of four early Guide Leaders in the Bahamas: Mrs Kelly, Mrs Higgs, Mrs Barbara Brown and Mrs Clarice Granger

BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY (last listed in Feb 2015)

019 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

- 66p photograph of Queen Elizabeth II from the cover of the Italian magazine Epoca, dated May 15, 1953, and two Coronation souvenir publications of that year in Britain
- 76p the Queen on a visit to St Julian's School in Carcavelos, Portugal, photographed by Tim Graham in 1985, and NASA scientific satellite with false-colour data image of hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica, 1985
- £1.01 Antarctic support vessel RRS James Clark Ross, launched by the Queen in 1990, and the Queen during a visit to Portsmouth in 1990, photographed by Tim Graham
- £1.22 map of British Antarctic Territory highlighting Queen Elizabeth Land, named after the monarch in 2012, and the Queen embarking for the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant on the River Thames in London on June 3, 2012, photographed by Eddie Mulholland

CROATIA (last listed in Sept 2015)

020 March 1, 2014

50th anniversary of the Croatian Union for Diabetic Research

Printing: litho.

Tax stamp:

- 1.55K emblem of HSDU (Croatian Union for Diabetes Research), and gingerbread man

Note: issued for use during March 2014

Note: intervening issues were listed in September 2015

021 May 1, 2015

50th Year of Red Cross Week

Printing: litho.

Tax stamps: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).

- 1.55K anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in cyan
- 1.55K anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in deep blue
- 1.55K anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in emerald
- 1.55K anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in deep yellow

- 1.55K 1965-2015, plus '50' in deep orange anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in red
- 1.55K anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in magenta
- 1.55K anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus larger '50' in multicoloured stripes

Sheetlet: 50 stamps.

- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in cyan
- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in deep blue
- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in emerald
- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in deep yellow
- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in deep orange
- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in red
- 1.55K x 7 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus '50' in magenta
- 1.55K x 1 anniversary emblem (with dates 1965-2015), plus larger '50' in multicoloured stripes

022 May 7, 2015

Europa 2015. Old Toys

Design: Tomislav Vlacinic.

Printing: litho, AKD, Zagreb.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (4 x 5).

- 4.60K To-Tak, a 14-element turned wooden toy comprising spheres, rods, blocks and cones, created by Anté Jakic, 1965
- 7.60K Porcelain doll dressed in hand-sewn embroidered folk costume of the Posavina region, created by Armand Marseille, 1856-1925

Note: the To-Tak was the winner of toy fair prize 1965. The parts can be assembled and reassembled to create various animal forms

023 May 15, 2015

150th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union

Design: Dubravka Zglavnik.

Printing: litho, AKD, Zagreb.

Sheet stamp:

- 10.00K telephone handset of early 20th century, and modern digital data transmission/switching equipment

024 June 10, 2015

Lighthouses

Design: Orsat Frankovic, from photographs by Andrija Carli (2.80K, 3.10K), Mario Romulic (4.60K) or Damir Fabijanic (6.50K).

Printing: litho, AKD, Zagreb.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).

- 2.80K Daksa (built 1872, now ruined), on islet near Dubrovnik
- 3.10K Glavat (built 1884) in the Varhvojnaci archipelago
- 4.60K Grebeni (now disused but a tourist attraction), near Bezdanj
- 6.50K Sveti Andrija (now part of an ornithological reserve), in the Elaphiti archipelago, near Dubrovnik

025 May 20, 2015

Palaces & Manors in Croatia

Design: Tomislav Vlacinic. All designs are

photographs overlain with the outline coat-of-arms of a noble family in white.

Printing: litho, AKD, Zagreb.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 9.

- 4.60K Castle Markovic/Kulmer, Cernik (medieval, reconstructed with baroque elements in mid-18th century)
- 4.60K Castle Jankovic, Daruvar (built in 1771-1777)
- 4.60K Stari Grad, Durdevac (built in 14th-16th centuries); lowland tower-castle surrounded by water meadows
- 4.60K Erdödi-Rubido, Gornji Rijeka (built in 1650-1663): stately home
- Sheetlet:** 8 stamps and 8 labels, arranged in se-tenant pairs of stamp and label.
- 4.60K x 2 Castle Markovic/Kulmer, Cernik
- 4.60K x 2 Castle Jankovic, Daruvar
- 4.60K x 2 Stari Grad, Durdevac
- 4.60K x 2 Erdödi-Rubido, Gornji Rijeka

026 June 15, 2015

The Croatian Undersea World, 2nd issue. Marine Fauna

Design: Alenka Lalic, from photographs by Dalibor Andres.

Printing: litho, AKD, Zagreb. Die-cut perf 5¼ x 5.

Self-adhesive sheetlet (2 x 2): 4 stamps separately arranged in sheetlet.

- 5.80K long-snouted seahorse, *Hippocampus guttulatus*
- 5.80K violescent sea-whip, *Paramuricia clavata*
- 5.80K cylinder anemone, *Cerianthus membranaceus*
- 5.80K Neptune's lace (bryozoa), *Reteporella beania*

Border: inscriptions in Croat and English, and barcodes

Note: all designs include a blue Air Mail flash.

027 July 9, 2015

EuroMed Postal Cooperation. The Bracara

Design: Dean Roksandic, from photograph by Ljubo Gamulin.

Printing: litho, AKD, Zagreb.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 16.

5.80K bracara, rigged with lug sail

Note: one-masted trading vessel originating in the 19th century, named after the island of Brac

DOMINICA

(last listed in March 2015)

028 Jan 6, 2014

Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho.

Sheetlet (2 x 3):

- \$2.50 Nelson Mandela speaking through megaphone
- \$2.50 Mandela in green patterned shirt
- \$2.50 Mandela at United Nations in New York, June 22, 1990, hands raised
- \$2.50 Mandela with arms raised (monochrome)
- \$2.50 Mandela in blue-grey patterned shirt
- \$2.50 Mandela smiling
- Border: Mandel smiling (in a multicoloured shirt)

Miniature sheet: composite design with border

\$5 Mandela in blue-grey coat, at a public event, about to greet supporter



026 CROATIA
Undersea World



036 ESTONIA
The Deadly Webcap



035 ESTONIA
Definitive. Town Coats of Arms



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029 Jan 5, 2014

Nelson Mandela, 1918-2013

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho and gold foil embossed. Perf 7 (wavy line).

Sheet stamp:

\$20 coloured photographic portrait of Mandela smiling, seated in a chair, within a wide gold frame

030 Jan 8, 2014

Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Horse

Designs: all designs have the same Chinese-style drawing, and Chinese characters in black.

Printing: litho.

Sheetlet (3 x 2):

\$2.50 horse in scarlet (at left, on pale orange ground) and Chinese character
\$2.50 horse in orange yellow (at left, on deep orange ground) and Chinese character
\$2.50 horse in scarlet (at left, on deep yellow ground) and Chinese character
\$2.50 horse in yellow (at right, on brown-orange ground), and Chinese character
\$2.50 horse in scarlet (at right, on yellow ground) and Chinese character
\$2.50 horse in yellow (at right, on orange ground) and Chinese character

Miniature sheet (1 x 2):

\$5 horse in red (at right, on orange ground) and Chinese characters
\$5 horse in orange (at right, on deep scarlet ground) and Chinese characters

Border: Chinese characters, yellow horse

031 May 1, 2014

Marine Life. Sea Turtles

Design: from photographs.

Printing: litho.

Sheetlet (3 x 1):

\$3.50 leatherback turtle, *Dermochelys coriacea*, crawling up beach
\$3.50 green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, swimming above reef
\$3.50 hawksbill turtle, *Eretmochelys imbricata*, swimming

Border: the three turtles, as on stamps

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

\$5 two green sea turtles, over reef

ESTONIA

(last listed in June 2015)

032 July 1, 2015

European Under-23 Athletics Championships, Tallinn, July 9-12, 2015

Design: Triin Herman.

Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).

0.55€ running shoe on track

033 July 6, 2015

100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia.

Estonian Innovation

Design: Indrek Ilves.

Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa. Die-cut perf 12.5 x 12.35.

Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 25, designs composite with illustrated border.

1.30€ Fortumo (international mobile payment provider): currency designators on mobile phone screen,

arrows, globe, logo
1.30€ Grabcad (CAD technical design and drawing program): modelled shapes
1.30€ skype (telecommunications software provider): phones, computer terminals and people having conversation
1.30€ TransferWise (peer-to-peer money transfer service, that was originated in Estonia): money moving around bank buildings

Note: backing sheet has text printed in Estonian and English on the reverse

Self-adhesive panel: stamps separately spaced, designs composite with border.

1.30€ Fortumo

1.30€ Grabcad

1.30€ Skype

1.30€ TransferWise

Note: backing sheet has text printed in Estonian and English on the reverse

034 Aug 25, 2015

Estonian Fauna. The Otter

Design: Sándor Stern.

Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 20 (4 x 5).

0.55€ otter, *Lutra lutra*, walking and carrying fish

Maximum card

035 Sept 9, 2015

Definitive. Town Coats of Arms series. Paide

Design: Indrek Ilves.

Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa. Die-cut perf 12.6 x 12.4.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

Stamps separately spaced, within rectangular-rouletted labels.

0.55€ coat of arms of Paide with tower

Note: the image is a stylised representation of the former fortress tower on Vallimäe Hill, now housing the Wittenstein Time Centre (historical experience centre)

036 Sept 10, 2015

Fungus. The Deadly Webcap

Design: Ülle Marks and Juri Kass.

Printing: litho, AS Vaba Maa.

Sheet stamp:

0.55€ the deadly webcap, *Cortinarius rubellus*, at various stages of its growth, and skull motif indicating deadly poison

FALKLAND ISLANDS

(last listed in Oct 2015)

037 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

30p Queen Elizabeth II, c1953, and Coronation souvenir publications of that year

80p Queen Elizabeth II wearing St Edward's crown (the Coronation crown), 1953, and first Land Rover in the Falkland Islands, 1951 (registration No168)

90p the Golden State Coach (built 1762), and Queen Elizabeth II at State Opening of Parliament, photographed

by Tim Graham
£1.25 promotional motif for 2013 referendum in the Falkland Islands, (hand placing ballot paper in box which bears map of islands), and Queen Elizabeth II watching a riding display at Ebony Horse Club & Community Riding Centre, 2012

FRANCE

(last listed in Sept 2015)

038 Oct 1, 2014

Greetings. Sense of Smell

Design: Corinne Salvi, from illustrations by Emmanuelle Houdart.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive booklet (7.32€):

- (0.61€) 'effleuve amoureuses' (the scent of love): couple and pink hearts
- (0.61€) 'flairer un trace' (following a trail): bloodhound following tracks
- (0.61€) 'le fumer de poisson' (smoking fish): brightly patterned fish
- (0.61€) 'renard et renarde par'odeur alléchés' (fox and vixen lured by smell): foxes with gruyère and brie cheeses
- (0.61€) 'l'arôme du café' (the smell of coffee): cup being filled from coffee jug, croissants
- (0.61€) 'putois apeurés, bouchez-vous le nez' (scared skunks! Hold your nose): two skunks and plants
- (0.61€) 'l'odeur de poulet rôti' (the smell of roast chicken): chicken in roasting dish which has face
- (0.61€) 'le parfum de la rose' (the scent of the rose): woman smelling oversize pink rose
- (0.61€) 'fragrances' (fragrances): bottle spraying perfume
- (0.61€) 'solution pour odorat délicat' (solution for delicate smells): training shoe planted with flowers
- (0.61€) 'respirer l'amour' (breathe love): mother and baby
- (0.61€) 'plantes aromatiques' (aromatic plants): face of woman and garlic bulb, cloves, onion and herbs

039 Oct 3, 2014

300th anniversary of the Parliament of Flanders Moving to Douai & 230th anniversary of the New Palace of Justice Building

Design & Engraving: Martin Mörc.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 48 (6 x 8).

0.83€ neo-classical façade of the reconstructed Palace of Justice and Registry building in Douai (1784), older Abbey façade and modern nine-storey tower block extension (1978)

Note: in October 1714 the Parliament of Flanders moved to Douai, in what was formerly the refuge of the Abbey of Marchiennes. A new building was constructed 1784, by designed by Lille architect Michel Lequeux

040 Oct 9, 2014

The Green Turtle

Design: Claude Perchat (illustration).

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.



034 ESTONIA
The Otter



032 ESTONIA
European Under-23 Athletics Championships



037 FALKLAND ISLANDS
Queen Elizabeth II

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44x27	High Values - 1955 - 1963	6030	7030		
30x35	High Values - Machin	63035	73035		
CUT TO SIZE for Great Britain Stamps		£3.50			
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41x30	Paintings etc	6101	7101		
30x41	Commems - 1970 onwards	6113	7113		
35x35	New 'Square' Commems	6109	7109		
35x37	New 'Square' Commems	63537	73537		
37x35	New 'Square' Commems	63735	73735		
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21	Very small stamps	1021	2021		
24	Definitive Commems	1024	2024		
26	USA Canada Commems	1026	2026		
27.5	1955 - 1963 High Values	1027	2027		
29	Jersey-Guernsey	1029	2029		
30	Modern GB Commems	1030	2030		
31	Jersey High Values	1031	2031		
33	Misc Foreign Issues	1033	2033		
STRIPS 210mm		£7.85			
Ht mm	Packets of 25	Black	Clear		
35	Modern GB Commems	1035	2035		
36	GB Machin High Values	1036	2036		
37	Modern GB Commems	1037	2037		
39	Various Foreign Issues	1039	2039		
41	Modern GB Commems	1041	2041		
44	Various Foreign Issues	1044	2044		
48	Blocks of Four GB Issues	1048	2048		
55	Blocks of Four	1055	2055		
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210x66		1066	2066		
210x70	Suitable for	1070	2070		
210x76	Blocks	1076	2076		
210x86	Miniature sheets	1086	2086		
130x85	Gutter Pairs	1201	2201		
148x105	Etc	1202	2202		
160x120		1203	2203		
210x170	Packets of 5	1204	2204		
	Mixed blocks - 9 different	1205	2205		
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MLC PO BOX 25 BOGNOR REGIS PO21 3YU

Sheet stamps: sheets of 42 (6 x 7).

0.98€ green sea turtle, *Chelonia mydas*
 Note: joint issue with Comoro Islands, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and French Southern & Antarctic Territories. First day postmarks of the French stamp were from St Leu, Réunion

041 Oct 11, 2014

Day of the Stamp. Dance

Design & Engraving: Line Filhon.

Printing: recess (sheet stamp) or litho with varnish layer (miniature sheet), PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 48 (6 x 8).

0.61€ salsa dancers, drums
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
 2.45€ break dancers, after steel mural by Christian Guérny

Border: the stone wall and metal railings, site of the mural at 44 Rue Antoine Marie Colin, at Vitry-sur-Seine

042 Oct 17, 2014

Maximilien Vox, 1894-1974

Design & Engraving: Louis Boursier.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 48 (6 x 8).

1.10€ portrait of Maximilien Vox (Samuel William Théodore Monod) and typographical print of his pen-name

Note: typographer, designer, writer, journalist. Vox founded and edited the typographical journal *Character*, and in 1954 created the typographical classification code which is recognised by the International Typographic Association, with characters grouped into families according to style

043 Oct 24, 2014

New Industrial France

Design: Christelle Guénot.

Printing: gravure (booklet stamps) or litho (sheet stamp), PhilaPoste. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre Verte 20g' (booklet stamps), or 'Monde 20g' (sheet stamp). Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive booklet (€7.32): 12 symbolical designs depicting machine components, electronic boards, flow diagrams and workers.

- (0.61€) 'Usine de futur'
- (0.61€) 'Transition numerique'
- (0.61€) 'Élégance'
- (0.61€) 'Économie sociale et solidaire'
- (0.61€) 'Développement durable'
- (0.61€) 'Patrimoine'
- (0.61€) 'Électromobilité'
- (0.61€) 'Exportations'
- (0.61€) 'Gastronomie'
- (0.61€) 'Transition énergétique'
- (0.61€) 'Métiers d'art'
- (0.61€) 'Innovation 2030'

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 12,
 - (0.95€) 'La Nouvelle France Industrielle'

044 Oct 24-Nov 6, 2014

Greetings & Happy New Year, All Year Round!

Design: PEF and Corinne Salvi (cartoon illustrations).

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste. Die-cut perf 11 (booklet), or perf 13 (miniature sheet). Non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre Verte 20g'.

Self-adhesive booklet (€7.32): issue date Oct 24, 2014. Stamps affixed 4/4/4 to inside covers.

- (0.61€) 'Bonne année': young woman and young man celebrating
- (0.61€) 'Bonne voyage': meld of vehicle, aircraft, cycle and yacht
- (0.61€) 'Bravo!': two doves clapping tail-feathers like hands
- (0.61€) 'Devinez': family playing a guessing game together
- (0.61€) 'C'est grand, bientôt?': boy and girl scrapping
- (0.61€) 'Coucou, c'est moi': baby juggling moon and sun shapes
- (0.61€) 'Bonnes fêtes': Santa-figure and child, carrying chocolate egg
- (0.61€) 'Coeur à coeur!': couple each with part of a heart
- (0.61€) 'Mais qui m'écrit?': children holding up flash cards
- (0.61€) 'Un petit mot doux...d'où?': child writing letter with quill
- (0.61€) 'Joyeux anniversaire': girl reclining in old man's beard
- (0.61€) 'Vivent les vacances!': birds in flight, one carrying a passenger

Cover: celebrating couple, and other motifs from the stamp designs

Gummed miniature sheet: issue date Nov 6, 2014.

- (0.61€) 'Un petit mot doux...d'où?': child writing letter with quill

Border: leaping boy holding a letter, and his avian friends

Note: booklet first day covers were produced at the Autumn Stamp Salon in Paris. General release of the booklet and miniature sheet was November 15. The miniature sheet was sold in a card folder, at 3.20€

045 Oct 27, 2014

Arts Dynamiques. Rose

Design: Sylvie Patte and Tanguy Besset.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste. Die-cut perf 11. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 50.

- (0.66€) red rose (to note swirl of petals)

Note: two other litho-printed stamps in this series were released on Jan 27, 2014. All the designs are as the stamps in a gravure-printed booklet issued Jan 4, 2014

046 Nov 6, 2014

80th anniversary of the Cornflower Emblem of the Oeuvre Nationale du Bleu et de France

Design: drawing by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, layout by Bruno Ghiringhelli.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 42 (7 x 6).

1.10€ hand holding cornflower, one section of which is a red heart-shape

Note: World War I remembrance and welfare charity. The cornflower (bleuet) was chosen as the emblem as it was commonly found in battlefields, and matched the blue colour of French uniforms in the early part of the war

047 Nov 6, 2014

Amiens Cathedral. Most Beautiful Stamp of 2013

Design: Yves Beaujard, from photograph by L. Rousselin.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Miniature sheet: 1 stamp and 1 se-tenant label.

0.63€ double view, of Amiens Cathedral and façade of Cirque Jules Verne (circus theatre building)

Label: the Dewailly clock, and the sculpture *Marie Sans Chemise*

Border: niche sculptures of kings and bishops from cathedral

Note: this design was previously issued on May 21, 2013, in sheets

048 Nov 6, 2014

70th anniversary of Marianne Stamps

Design: after Marianne et la Jeunesse stamps of 2013, by Olivier Ciappa and David Kawena.

Engraving: Elsa Catelin (recess stamps).

Printing: PhilaPoste, in five different print processes (as listed below), with black 'overprinting' by typography. Perf 13.

Sheetlet: sheet of 41 stamps arranged in 6 rows of 6, plus 2 central rows comprising 4 standard stamps and one large-format stamp.

- x 8 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'. Marianne with children, in red, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (recess-printed)

- x 2 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'. Marianne with children, in red, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (gravure-printed)

- x 2 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'. Marianne with children, in red, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (offset litho-printed)

- x 2 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'. Marianne with children, in red, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (typographically-printed)

- x 4 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'. Marianne with children, in red, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (serigraphically-printed)

- x 8 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Marianne with tree, in blue-green, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (recess-printed)

- x 2 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Marianne with tree, in blue-green, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (gravure-printed)

- x 2 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Marianne with tree, in blue-green, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (offset litho-printed)

- x 2 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Marianne with tree, in blue-green, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (typographically-printed)

- x 4 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Marianne with tree, in blue-green, with inscription 'Marianne 1944-2014' in black over motif (serigraphically-printed)

- x 1 'Lettre Verte 20g'. Marianne with tree, in blue-green, with inscription 'Marianne/1944-2014' in black flanking the motif (large format)

Border: printing press, engraving tools, lettering blocks, ink drums inscribed 'black', 'yellow', 'magenta' and 'cyan' (in English)

Note: the sheetlet was sold in a numbered limited edition of 25,000 in a folder at 25.40€. The original Marianne definitive design (not reproduced in this sheetlet) was released in February 1945



047 FRANCE

Amiens Cathedral



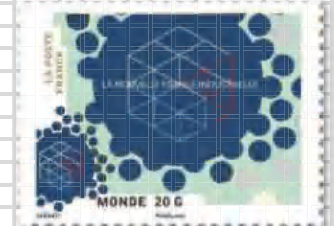
048 FRANCE

Greetings. Sense of Smell



049 FRANCE

Douai



043 FRANCE

New Industrial France

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049 Nov 7, 2014

Évariste de Parny

Design & Engraving: Elsa Catelin.

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 48 (8 x 6).

0.83€ profile portrait of Évariste Desiré de Forges, Vicomte de Parny (1753-1814) based on bust of the poet by Jean-Baptiste Isabey, held by the Louvre art gallery

Note: born in Réunion

050 Nov 6, 2014

Third anniversary of La Lettre Verte

Design: Stéphanie Ghinea (booklet and miniature sheet), after definitive issues.

Engraving: Elsa Catelin (Ceres, Marianne 2013), Claude Jumelet (Semeuse) or Yves Beaujard (Marianne 2011).

Printing: recess, PhilaPoste. Perf 13.

Miniature sheet (4 x 1):

0.61€ head of Ceres, after 1850 design by Jacques-Jean Barre but inscribed 'La Poste 2014', pale blue-green
0.61€ La Semeuse (sower), after 1903 design by Louis-Oscar Roty, pale blue-green
- (0.61€) Marianne 'Lettre Verte 20g' design of 2011 (head of Marianne within leaf, with stars), pale emerald
- (0.61€) Marianne 'Lettre Verte 20g' design of 2013 (Marianne with tree), pale emerald

Border: outline drawing of La Semeuse, and depictions of the four stamps

Booklet (8.54€): 2 panes, set sideways, the second pane arranged in chequer formation.

Pane 1: 0.61€ head of Ceres, 0.61€ La Semeuse
Border inscription 'La Lettre Verte a 3 ans'

Pane 2: (0.61€) x 6 Marianne 'Lettre Verte 20g' design of 2011, (0.61€) x 6 Marianne 'Lettre Verte 20g' design of 2013

Border: plain white

Note: ecologically-friendly mail delivery service

051 Nov 7, 2014

150th anniversary of the French Red Cross

Design: Sylvain Chomet.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.

Miniature sheet: stamps horizontally se-tenant.

0.61€ 'Henri Dunant, 1864': graphic portrait of the founder of the red Cross writing
0.61€ 'Les Anges Blanc, 1914': graphic of white angels
0.61€ '150 Ans à vos Côtes': inscription, in red, and Red Cross emblem
0.61€ 'Aide aux Déportés, 1945': graphic of refugee couple
0.61€ 'Haïti, 2010': graphic of Red Cross workers with child earthquake victim

Border: mountain scene with Red Cross vehicle outside damaged building

Note: sold at 5.05€, including 2.00€ surcharge in aid of Red Cross

052 Nov 8, 2014

Endangered & Protected Species. Hyacinth Macaw

Design: Jean-Paul Vêret-Lemarinier and Aurélie Baras.

Printing: litho, Philaposte.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

0.98€ hyacinth macaw, *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* (Brazil)

053 Nov 9, 2014

Photography. The Evolution of Cameras

Design: Pierre-André Cousin. All designs are artworks depicting a single innovative camera.

Engraving: Marie-Noëlle Goffin.

Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste.

Miniature sheet: 6 separately spaced designs. Format 143mm x 105mm.

0.66€ Le Quadrilatère Derogy: four-lens camera made by Derogy & Tony, 1865, able to take four portraits simultaneously

0.66€ Le Stéréocycle: two-lens camera made by Bazin & Leroy, 1898, which produced double negatives for stereoscopic print viewing

0.66€ Le Folding Le Rêve: folding camera with lens on bellows made by J Girard & Cie, 1902, able to take photographs with either plates or coiled filmstrip, loading in daylight

0.66€ Le Beau Brownie: Brownie camera made by Eastman Kodak Co, New York, 1930-1933, with art deco design by Walter Dorwin Teague

0.66€ La Chambre Pliante: folding-room camera made by Mackenstein, 1902, with sliding sections in wooden body allowing space saving

0.66€ Le Spido Reportage: box camera with large flash light made by Gaumont, 1930-1940, designed for rapid-turnaround press photography

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

0.66€ x 6 Le Quadrilatère Derogy

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

0.66€ x 6 Le Stéréocycle

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

0.66€ x 6 Le Folding Le Rêve

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

0.66€ x 6 Le Beau Brownie

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

0.66€ x 6 La Chambre Pliante

Miniature sheet: format 95mm x 200mm.

0.66€ x 6 Le Spido Reportage

Note: miniature sheet borders depict details of the drawing shown on the stamp

054 Dec 8, 2014

70th anniversary of Compagnies

Républicaines de Sécurité

Design: Stéphane Humbert-Basset.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 40 (4 x 10).

1.10€ policeman in riot gear (wearing helmet, with shield), policeman on motorcycle, helicopter undertaking mountain airlift, police dog-handler with labrador, police guard using binoculars, police badge

Note: riot-control police units

055 Jan 3, 2015

Arts & Materials

Design: Grenade, from photographs. All designs depict hands of craft workers and artists at work, and detail of finished product.

Printing: gravure (booklet stamps) or litho (sheet stamp), PhilaPoste. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Lettre Prioritaire 20g'.

Self-adhesive booklet (9.12€): 12 stamps

affixed 4/4 in three 'blocks' to inside covers.

- (0.76€) cabinet maker wood-carving; polished

wooden board

- (0.76€) glass blower making spiral glass

object; hot glass

- (0.76€) weaver working at hand loom; woven net-cloth

- (0.76€) saddler stitching seam; finished seam

- (0.76€) blacksmith making nail-holes in

horseshoe on anvil; metal cornerwork

casting

- (0.76€) hands stitching floral pattern; reels of

embroidery yarn

- (0.76€) cooper fitting metal hoop to barrel

staves; grooved wood

- (0.76€) mason sculpting block of stone with

chisel; newly exposed face of

stonework

- (0.76€) potter at work on wheel; newly made

(unfired) pot

- (0.76€) serigrapher (screen-printer) inking a

mesh screen with fill blade; roll of

serigraphy paper

- (0.76€) florist constructing rose bouquet;

detail of rose leaf

- (0.76€) goldsmith or silversmith using cutting

wheel on white gold product; cut and

polished stone

Cover: potter forming rim of pot on wheel, and

chisels in a chisel sock

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 12.

- (0.76€) goldsmith or silversmith using cutting

wheel on white gold product; cut and

polished stone

Note: inscriptions and printer imprint are thinner

and sharper on the sheet stamp than on the

equivalent booklet stamp

056 Jan 16, 2015

Art. Hokusai

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 30 (3 x 10).

1.90€ *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, wood-block print by Katsusika Hokusai, 1760-1859 (Japan)

Note: several versions of the wood-block print are

dispersed in various museums; the stamp motif is

after the version kept at the Guimet Museum of

Asian Art in Paris

057 Jan 23, 2015

Valentines. Hearts

Design: Jean Charles de Castelbajac (couturier).

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste. Perf 13 (gummed stamps) or die-cut perf 11 (self-adhesives).

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 30 (6 x 5)

heart-shape stamps set within rectangular labels.

Designs composite with labels.

0.68€ two people rubbing noses, with red,

yellow and blue heart-shapes

1.15€ two people rubbing noses, with red

yellow and blue flower-blossoms

Gummed sheetlet: 5 separately spaced heart-

shape stamps. Design with white frames, not

composite with border.

0.68€ x 5 two people rubbing noses, with red,

yellow and blue heart-shapes

Border: coloured clouds and birds

Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 30

heart-shape stamps, separately spaced, only

slightly composite with white border.

0.68€ two people rubbing noses, with red,

yellow and blue heart-shapes

1.15€ two people rubbing noses, with red

yellow and blue flower-blossoms



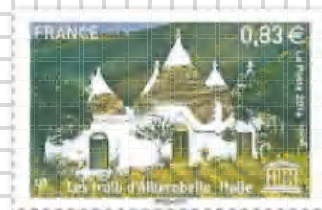
052 FRANCE

Endangered & Protected Species. Hyacinth Macaw



057 FRANCE

Valentines



060 FRANCE (UNESCO)

UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Trulli of Alberobello

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FRANCE COUNCIL of EUROPE (official stamps)

058 Oct 3, 2014

50 Years of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Health Care

Design: Stéphanie Ghinéa.

Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).

0.83€ '50', the zero of which is a drug capsule, and title of directive plus graphic 'edQm Santé!'

059 Oct 3, 2014

50th anniversary of the Adoption of the European Cultural Convention

Design: Stéphanie Ghinéa.

Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

0.98€ the Agora Building, 1 Quai Jacoutot, Strasbourg (architects Dena & Parodan)

FRANCE UNESCO (official stamps)

060 Nov 8, 2014

UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The Trulli of Alberobello

Design: Jean-Paul Vêret-Lemarinier and Aurélie Baras.

Printing: litho, Philaposte.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (5 x 10).

0.83€ the trulli (limestone drystone houses with conical or domed roofs) at Alberobello, Puglia, Italy, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1996

GERMANY (last listed in Oct 2015)

061 July 1, 2015

1,000th anniversary of Leipzig

Design: Anette Stahmer and Andre Heers.

Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient, Leipzig.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).

62c graphic lettering 'Leipzig' over print of the New City Hall

Note: first mention of a settlement appeared in the chronicle of Bishop Thietmar of Merseburg. The New Hall featured in mass demonstrations (mainly around Nikolaikirche) for peace and unity in the last days of the German Democratic Republic

062 July 1, 2015

Centenary of the Birth of Philipp Scheidemann, 1865-1939

Design: Daniela Haufe and Dettlef Fiedler, from archive photograph.

Printing: litho, Bagel Security Print, Mönchengladbach.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2) with illustrated border.

145c crowds outside the Reichstag in Berlin, November 9, 1918

Border: crowd scene

Note: it fell to the SPD politician Scheidemann, at a few hours notice, to proclaim the first German Republic following the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II. He later served as first Prime Minister of the Weimar Republic, until resigning on June 20,

1919, and then as Mayor of Kassel 1919-25, whilst continuing as a Parliamentarian until 1933

063 July 1, 2015

Pina Bausch, 1940-2009

Design: Dieter Ziegenfeuter.

Printing: litho, Bundesdruckerei, Berlin.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).

85c portrait photograph of the dancer, choreographer and theatre producer by Wilfried Krüger

Note: Bausch became head of the the Wuppertaler Ballets in 1973, which she soon renamed Tanztheater Wuppertal. Her productions included *Komm Tanz Mit Mir* (1977), *Kontakthof* (1978), *Nelken* (1982) and *Vollmond* (2006)

064 July 1, 2015

Panoramas of Germany series. Chiemsee, Bavaria

Design: Stefan Klein and Olaf Neumann, from photographs by Heinz Wohner.

Printing: litho, Giesecke & Devrient, Leipzig. Perf 13¼ (gummed) or die-cut perf 11 on three sides and one side imperforate (self-adhesives).

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5) arranged in 5 horizontally composite pairs, with illustrated border.

45c Chiemsee, with fisherman in boat and onion-shaped dome of the Benedictine Frauenwörth Abbey

45c Chiemsee, with reedbeds and the Chiemgauer Alps

Self-adhesive sheetlet: 10 stamps arranged in 5 separately spaced 'pairs'.

45c Chiemsee, with fisherman in boat and onion-shaped dome of the Benedictine Frauenwörth Abbey

45c Chiemsee, with reedbeds and the Chiemgauer Alps

Self-adhesive pane: 10 stamps arranged in 5 separately spaced 'pairs'.

45c x 5 Chiemsee, with fisherman in boat and onion-shaped dome of the Benedictine Frauenwörth Abbey (imperf at right)

45c x 5 Chiemsee, with reedbeds and the Chiemgauer Alps (imperf at left)

Cover: aerial panorama of Chiemsee

065 Aug 6, 2015

Tall Ships Festival. Sail Bremerhaven 2015

Design: Johannes Graf.

Printing: litho, Bagel Security Print, Mönchengladbach.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).

62c line of moored tall ships at the international festival, with flags flying

Note: the festival included several visiting tall ships from South America

066 Aug 6, 2015

For Youth. Freshwater Fish

Design: Werner Hans Schmidt.

Printing: litho, Bundesdruckerei.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).

62 + 30c grayling, *Thymallus thymallus*, and stones of river bed

85 + 40c barbel, *Barbus barbus*, and water plant

145 + 55c sturgeon, *Acipenser sp.*, and rocks of

river bed

Booklet (6.60€): single pane of 6 (3 x 2) plus 4 labels and 8 illustrated tabs.

62 + 30c x 5 grayling, *Thymallus thymallus* (positions 1,3,4,5,6)

145 + 55c x 1 sturgeon, *Acipenser sp* (position 1)

Labels and tabs: composite illustration of sturgeon and grayling, framing the stamps
Cover: depictions of the grayling and sturgeon stamps, and of other German stamp designs featuring fauna. Surcharge in aid of youth welfare charity

ISLE of MAN

(last listed in Sept 2015)

067 May 2, 2015

Celebrating the Birth of Princess Charlotte of Cambridge

Design: as stamps issued to mark the Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton in 2011, but with imprint '2015' at foot.

Printing: digital.

Sheetlet: 8 stamps and 4 labels, arranged in four gutter pairs of the two designs with a central label.

£1 x 4 Catherine Middleton (now the Duchess of Cambridge)

£1 x 4 Prince William (now the Duke of Cambridge)

Labels: text 'Announcing the birth of HRH Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana of Cambridge'
Border: inscriptions and magenta-and-white pattern

Note: single gutter strips of two stamps with one label were available philatelically

068 June 18, 2015

The Reign of Queen Elizabeth II

Design: The Fresh Group, from photographs.

Printing: litho, BDT. Perf 14 x 14¼.

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (5 x 4) with enlarged illustrated left borders.

44p Coronation, June 2, 1953: Queen Elizabeth II seated in King Edward's Chair in Westminster Abbey, holding orb and sceptre, and bishop Arthur Michael Ramsey of Durham
Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle, July 1, 1969

77p Queen attending an official function during Silver Jubilee celebrations, 1977

77p Queen in robes of the Order of the Garter, at ceremony

93p Queen riding Burmese (horse) and saluting, during Trooping of the Colour ceremony, Horseguards Parade, Westminster
93p Queen and Prince Philip riding in State Coach during Golden Jubilee celebrations, 2002

£1.24 Queen in white coat and hat, during Diamond Jubilee celebrations, 2012
£1.24 Queen at State Opening of Parliament, Westminster Palace (recent photograph)

069 July 3, 2015

50th anniversary of The Curraghs Wildlife Park



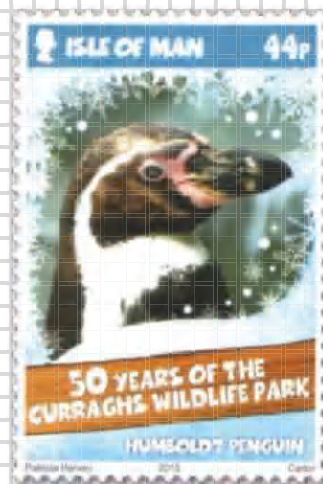
064 GERMANY
Chiemsee



062 GERMANY
Philipp Scheidemann



065 GERMANY
Sail Bremerhaven 2015



069 ISLE OF MAN
Curraghs Wildlife Park

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Design: Home Strategic, from photographs by members of the Isle of Man Photographic Society.

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 18.

- 44p red panda, *Ailurus fulgens*
- 44p Humboldt penguin, *Spheniscus humboldti*
- 95p ruffled lemur, *Varecia variegata*
- £1.15 Waldrapp ibis, *Geronticus eremita*
- £1.24 fishing cat, *Prionallurus viverrinus*
- £2.38 Rodrigues fruit bat, *Pteropus rodricensis*

Note: wildlife park occupying 50 acres of the Curragh, a lowland wetland region in the north of the island, which opened in 1965

070 July 15, 2015

Old Buses

Design: EJC Design, from illustrations by Peter Harvey.

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25.

- 44p Douglas Corporation Transport Leyland Cub KPZ1, with crew, outside Omnibus Depot in York Road
- 60p Isle of Man Road Services Leyland/MCW Olympic HC40 (introduced in 1948), leaving Ballasalla
- 77p Isle of Man Road Services Leyland Tiger PS1 (1940s, with custom body built separately from chassis), outside bus station
- 93p Douglas Corporation Transport Daimler CWA6 (introduced in 1945 with 'utility' bodywork including wooden seats), outside Douglas railway station
- £1.47 Leyland Titan PD1 (introduced in 1946), outside Ramsey Town Hall
- £1.86 Douglas Corporation Transport AFC Regent 1 (manufactured in 1933-1939, in service until 1967), on Prospect Hill, Douglas

ITALY

(last listed in June 2015)

071 Jan 12, 2013

Folk Customs. Fano Carnival

Design: Maria Carmela Perrini.

Printing: gravure, IPZS.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).

- 0.60€ carnival masks, and carnival party bag filled with sweets

072 Feb 1, 2013

Nordic World Skiing Championships 2013, Val di Fiemme, Trentino

Design: Gaetano Ieluzzo.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 45 (9 x 5).

- 0.85€ ski-jumper and cross-country skier (poster design)

073 Feb 4, 2013

Folk Customs. Termitano

Design: Maria Carmela Perrini.

Printing: gravure, IPZS.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 50 (10 x 5).

- 0.70€ traditional carnival costumes (papier-mâché figures, on float),

carnival puppets and view of Monte San Calogero

074 Feb 13, 2013

Definitive

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 70.

- 0.25€ envelope with trailing ribbons in Italian colours; envelope and inscriptions in orange

075 Feb 18, 2013

270th Anniversary of the Death of Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici, 1667-1743, Last Representative of the House of Medici

Design: from painting.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets 45 (9 x 5).

- 3.60€ portrait painted by Antonio Franchi, 1638-1709

Note: married to John William, Elector Palatine (Holy Roman Empire), she returned to Tuscany after his death. Last scion of the House of Medici after the death of her brother Gian, the Grand Duke, she bequeathed her family art collections (including the Uffizi gallery) to future Grand Dukes and stipulated that they should remain in Florence in perpetuity

076 Feb 23, 2013

Artistic & Cultural Heritage. Mattia Preti, 1613-1699

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 28 (7 x 4).

- 0.70€ self-portrait by the painter, a detail from St John the Baptist Preaching

077 March 1, 2013

Definitive

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 50.

- 0.70€ envelope with trailing ribbons in Italian colours; envelope and inscriptions in silvery grey

078 March 9, 2013

Artistic & Cultural Heritage. Paolo Paschetto, 1885-1963

Design: Anna Maria Maresca.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 28 (4 x 7).

- 0.70€ painting of the national coat of arms (as used in stamp designs) and artwork for four Italian stamps

Note: artist and stamp designer

079 March 12, 2013

Gabriele D'Annunzio, 1863-1938

Design: Gaetano Ieluzzo.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 28 (7 x 4).

- 0.70€ portrait drawing of the novelist, dramatist, parliamentarian and political revanchist, with book

Note: already known as a poet, D'Annunzio achieved international fame for leading the march upon and seizure of Fiume (Rijeka, now in Croatia) by Italian nationalists in September 1919, after distinguished service as an aviator in World War I

080 March 15, 2013

Centenary of the Foundation of the Lirica Opera Festival at the Ancient Arena of Verona

Design: Tiziana Trinca (illustration).

Printing: gravure, IPZS.

Miniature sheet:

- 1.90€ interior of the Verona arena, an ancient Roman amphitheatre

Border: terraces of the arena, crest of Italian Ministry of Culture

081 March 28, 2013

State Institutions. 90th anniversary of the Italian Air Force

Design: Maria Carmela Perrini.

Printing: gravure, IPZS, Rome. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp:

- 0.70€ 90th anniversary emblem of Aeronautica Militare: '90', outline of jet fighter aircraft, ribbons in Italian colours

082 April 5, 2013

Parks & Gardens of Italy.

Design: Giustina Milite (paintings). All designs include depictions of four flowering plants typical of the locality.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 28.

- 0.70€ garden of Castel Trautmannsdorf, Merano
- 0.70€ small plots and terraces in Cinque Terre National Park, Liguria
- 0.70€ the Botanical Gardens of Bari

Note: the previous issue in this series was released on September 28, 2012

083 April 5, 2013

1700th anniversary of the Edict of Milan by Emperor Constantine I

Printing: gravure, IPZS.

Miniature sheet: design composite with border.

- 1.90€ Pope Sylvester I meeting Emperor Constantine I, a fresco which also includes portraits of St Peter and St Paul, from the oratory of the Basilica of Santi Quattro Coronati, Rome (1246)

Note: joint issue with Vatican City

084 May 2, 2013

Election of Pope Francis I

Design: from photograph.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 45 (9 x 5).

- 0.70€ Pope Francis (Jorge Bergoglio) smiling

Note: joint issue with Argentina and with Vatican City

085 May 7, 2013

Sesquicentenary of the Politecnico di Milan

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 45 (9 x 5).

- 0.70€ façade of the main building of the Polytechnic University of Milan

086 May 9, 2013

Europa 2013. Postal Transport

Design: Silvia Isola.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamps: sheets of 45 (9 x 5).

- 0.70€ postman riding historic electric scooter, and present day electric postal scooter



071 ITALY

Fano Carnival



080 ITALY

Lirica Opera Festival



087 ITALY

Bologna Opera House



089 ITALY

The Goldsmith's Art

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0.85€ post truck of the 1920s, and modern electric runabout (tiny car)

087 May 14, 2013

Artistic & Cultural Heritage. 250th anniversary of the Bologna Opera House

Design: Antonio Ciaburro (line drawing).

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Perf 13.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 25.

0.70€ interior view of the Opera

Note: officially known as the Teatro Comunale (Municipal Theatre)

088 May 16, 2013

State Institutions. Italian State Police Headquarters

Design: Maria Carmela Perrini.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 28 (7 x 4).

0.70€ main façade of the building, with flags of Europe, Italy and police force

089 May 18, 2015

Made in Italy series. The Goldsmith's Art

Design: Luca Vangelli.

Printing: gravure, IPZS. Perf 13 x 13½.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 25 arranged in se-tenant strips of 5.

0.70€ amphora shaped drop earrings, Etruria (Etruscan), 3rd-2nd century BC, from the Vatican Museums

0.70€ salt cellar with figures representing Neptune and the Earth, made by Benvenuto Cellini for King Francis I of France, 1543, from the

0.70€ Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna star-shaped buckle, 14th-century, from Civic Museum of Castelvecchio in Verona

0.70€ monstrance known as 'the golden sphere', work of Leonardo Montalbano from 1640

0.70€ Palermo brooch with Marine Venus by Antonio Berini, 1770-1861, working with Manifattura Castellani, from Villa Giulia, Rome

090 May 22, 2013

Sailing. Centenary of the 12ft Dinghy Class Boat

Design: Gaetano Ieluzzo.

Printing: gravure, IPZS, Die-cut perf 11.

Self-adhesive sheet stamp: sheets of 28 (7 x 4).

0.70€ vintage 12ft dinghy under sail, and group of modern dinghies of the same class in a regatta at Bibione, Veneto

Note: designed by George Cockshott, an amateur British boat designer from Southport, in 1913, the international 12ft dinghy was the basis of the first unified-design racing class

JERSEY

(last listed in Nov 2015)

091 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, The Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: from official photographs (sheet stamps) and oil painting (miniature sheet).

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).

47p Queen Elizabeth II wearing coronation robes and Imperial State Crown, with

orb and mace: Coronation portrait by Cecil Beaton, 1953

57p Queen wearing Imperial State Crown: Silver Jubilee portrait by Peter Gudgeon, 1977

71p Queen wearing tiara: Golden Jubilee portrait by John Swannell, 2002

£1.25 Queen inside Buckingham Palace (with Victoria Memorial seen through window): Diamond Jubilee portrait by John Swannell, 2012

Miniature sheet: four separately spaced stamps. 47p, 57p, 71p, £1.25, designs as sheet stamps Border: Imperial State Crown

Miniature sheet: design composite with border. £3

The Coronation Theatre, Westminster Abbey: A Portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, painting by Ralph Heimans, 2012

Note: the miniature sheet is printed on 'silk'

092 Sept 22, 2015

Links with China. Garden Flowers

Design: drawings by Martin Mörck, painted by Wang Huming.

Printing: litho, Cartor.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5) with enlarged illustrated borders.

47p magnolia

47p camellia

47p azalea

47p hydrangea

47p chrysanthemum

47p peony

Miniature sheet:

47p chrysanthemum

47p peony

Border: peonies, and inscription in Chinese (poem by Li Bai)

PAKISTAN

(last listed in Jan 2015)

093 Sept 21, 2013

Noor Jahan Commemoration

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing Corporation.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 16.

R8 portrait of the singer Malika-E-Tarannum Noor Jahan, in performance

Note: real name Allah Rakhi Wasai, 1926-2000

094 Nov 9, 2013

Men of Letters. Jon Elia, 1931-2002

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing Corporation.

Sheet stamp: sheets of 18 (6 x 3).

R8 portrait of the Urdu-language poet, philosopher, scholar

095 Nov 28, 2013

20th anniversary of the Economic Cooperation Organisation

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing Corporation.

Sheet stamp:

R25 ECO emblem over map of member nations (from Turkey to Pakistan)

Note: the 20th anniversary of the organisation was in 2012. Details on the map are of very poor resolution

096 Dec 28, 2013

Poets of Pakistan. Parveen Shakir, 1952-1994

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R10 portrait of the poetess

097 Dec 28, 2013

150th anniversary of the Pakistan Bible Society

Design: Liaquat Ali.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 anniversary emblem, stack of nine Bibles (translations in different languages), façade of Society building, inscription 'Providing faithful service/ Providing the word of God in the language people can understand'

098 March 12, 2014

Men of Letters. Habib Jalib, 1928-1993

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R15 portrait of the poet and political activist

099 March 20, 2014

First anniversary of the Death of Brigadier-General Muhammad Mahmood Alam

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 the Air Force Commodore, 1935-2013, standing in cockpit of aircraft, jet fighter in flight, badge of the Order of Sitara-e-Jurat

100 April 6, 2014

Habib Mohammedali Habib, 1936-2013, Banker

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 portrait of the banker, logo of the Habib Bank (lion and five stars)

101 May 14, 2014

Sesquicentenary of the Forman Christian College, Lahore

Design: Naveed Awan.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 Forman College building and crest

Note: private chartered university

102 April 6, 2014

50th anniversary of the Pakistan Navy Submarine Force

Design: Adil Salahuddin.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R10 Pakistan flag, Submarine Force emblem, Agosta-class submarine on ocean surface

Note: the original Agosta-class submarines, built in France, were acquired in the late 1970s. Later models have been built in Pakistan

103 July 11, 2014

Centenary of the Frontier Constabulary

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.



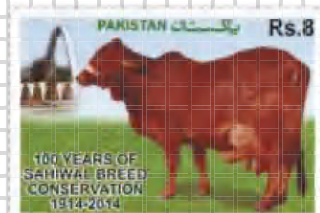
092 JERSEY

Links With China. Garden Flowers



093 PAKISTAN

Noor Jahan Commemoration



104 PAKISTAN

Sahiwal Cattle Breed

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Sheet stamp:

R8 badge of the Frontier Constabulary (crossed rifles) and groups of early and modern members

Note: the Frontier Constabulary, a federal paramilitary border guard, was created by the British in 1913, by amalgamating the Border Military Police and the Samana Rifles

104 Aug 5, 2014

100 Years of Sahiwal Cattle Breed Conservation

Design: Naveed Awan.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 Sahiwal cow

Note: the breed is exported around the world, including to Africa and Australia

105 Aug 11, 2014

Pakistan 2025. One Nation, One Vision

Design: Khuram Shahbar and Mehvish Shah.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 emblem and photomontage of various government, religious and economic activities: aircraft, buildings, monuments, mosque, police and military parade, train, motorway, agricultural equipment, graphs, skyscrapers, telecommunications masts and dish, control room, phones, industrial plant

R10 emblem (in different colours) and sun bearing crescent and moon from Pakistan flag rising over green fields

106 Dec 4, 2014

Norman Ernest Borlaug, 1914-2009

Design: Khuram Shahbar and Mehvish Shah.

Printing: litho, Pakistan Security Printing.

Sheet stamp:

R8 portrait of the American agricultural scientist, plant geneticist and researcher, and field of wheat

Note: Nobel Peace Prize laureate who worked mainly in Mexico, developing high-yielding strains of crops, especially wheat, which led to what is now known as the Green Revolution

RUSSIA

(last listed in Nov 2015)

107 April 25, 2014

Weapons of Victory in the Great Patriotic War, 1941-1945. Artillery

Design: A Drobyshv.

Printing: litho, with partial lacquer (varnish) layer, Goznak. Perf 13.5 x 13.4 (sheet and sheetlet stamps) or perf 11.5 (booklet panes).

Sheet stamps: sheets of 15.

12r 53-K, 45mm anti-tank gun
15r ZiS-3, 76mm divisional gun
18r 52-K, 85mm anti-aircraft gun with four wheels for greater mobility

20r M-30, 122mm howitzer

Sheetlet (2 x 4): 8 stamp arranged in se-tenant blocks or strips of 4.

12r x 2 53-K, 45mm anti-tank gun (positions 1, 6)

15r x 2 ZiS-3, 76mm divisional gun (positions 2, 5)

18r x 2 52-K, 85mm anti-aircraft gun

(positions 3, 8)
20r M-30, 122mm howitzer (positions 4, 7)

Prestige booklet: 4 panes, each of one stamp.

Pane 1: 12r x 1, 53-K, 45mm anti-tank gun

Pane 2: 15r x 1, ZiS-3, 76mm divisional gun

Pane 3: 18r x 1, 52-K, 85mm anti-aircraft gun

Pane 4: 20r x 1, M-30, 122mm howitzer

Cover: 122mm howitzer (motif from stamp)

108 April 25, 2014

Medal-Winners at XXII Winter Olympic Games, Sochi 2014

Design: A Drobyshv. Re-issue of the miniature sheet of February 7, 2014, with additional border inscription in bright purple stating numbers of medals won by Russia.

Printing: litho, with varnish (lacquer) layer, and embossing (on medals), Goznak.

Miniature sheet:

25r Sochi 2014 Olympic bronze medal

50r Sochi 2014 Olympic silver medal

75r Sochi 2014 Olympic gold medal

Border: Krasnoya Polyana (mountains) under snow, Games logo, QR code, inscription (in Cyrillic alphabet) stating 13 gold, 11 silver and 9 bronze medals won by Russia

109 April 25, 2015

Medal-Winners XI Winter Paralympic Games, Sochi 2014

Design: A Drobyshv. Re-issue of the miniature sheet of March 7, 2014, with additional border inscription in deep magenta stating numbers of medals won by Russia.

Printing: litho, with varnish (lacquer) layer, and embossing (on medals), Goznak.

Miniature sheet:

25r Sochi 2014 Paralympic bronze medal

50r Sochi 2014 Paralympic silver medal

75r Sochi 2014 Paralympic gold medal

Border: Krasnoya Polyana (mountains) under snow, Games logo, QR code, inscription (in Cyrillic alphabet) stating 30 gold, 28 silver and 22 bronze medals won by Russia

SOUTH GEORGIA & SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

(last listed in Oct 2015)

110 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

70p Queen Elizabeth II, c1953, and Coronation souvenir publications of that year (*Daily Mirror* souvenir showing Queen and Prince Philip in coach, and coloured photographic journal)

80p Queen Elizabeth II in profile, wearing a tiara, 1950s, and Prince Philip meeting Doctors at Leith Harbour on South Georgia (photograph by John Alexander, January 12, 1957)

90p Queen Elizabeth II in 1982, and Cunard ocean liner *QE2* (with its helicopter) in use as troopship at time of Falklands War, May-June 1982

£1.25 Queen Elizabeth II in 2009, and Princess Anne, the Princess Royal

(Patron of the South Georgia Heritage Trust) visiting the grave of Ernest Shackleton, 2009

TRISTAN da CUNHA

(last listed in Sept 2015)

Correction: The design listed as a 35p value in the 800th Anniversary of Magna Carta set of four issued on June 15, 2015 (listed in September 2015), illustrating medals (arms of King John, and John on throne), was in fact a £1.50 value

111 Sept 9, 2015

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Design: Andrew Robinson, from photographs.

Printing: litho, BDT.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.

35p Queen Elizabeth, wearing crown, returning to Buckingham Palace after Coronation ceremony, June 1953 (colourised monochrome photograph), and contemporary souvenir publications of the event

45p Queen attending a polo match at Windsor in 1975 (photograph by Tim Graham), and HMY *Britannia* (royal yacht, launched in 1953)

£1.10 Queen wearing the robes of the Order of the Garter (photograph by Tim Graham), and Round Tower of Windsor Castle

£2 Queen at unveiling of Diamond Jubilee window in Westminster Hall (Palace of Westminster), 2013 (photograph by Arthur Edwards), and Trooping the Colour ceremony in Horseguards Parade, Whitehall, London

ZIMBABWE

(last listed in Oct 2015)

112 April 30, 2015

Definitives. A Focus on Victoria Falls

Design: from paintings.

Printing: litho, NatPrint, Harare. Perf 13.9 x 14.2 (line). Imprint date '2015'.

Sheet stamps:

10c the Victoria Falls Bridge (with Falls in background)

15c 'elephant interaction': elephant riders

20c 'view inside the rain forest'

25c Makishi dancers (with their permanently worn giant costume masks)

40c Zambezi white waters (dinghy riding river rapids)

60c the Victoria Falls railway station

75c The Big Tree (baobab)

80c masks and curios (souvenirs)

85c statue of David Livingstone, British explorer of 19th century

\$1 view of Falls and gorge from Devil's Cataract

Miniature sheet (5 x 2):

10c, 15c, 20c, 25c, 40c, 60c, 75c, 80c, 85c, \$1, design as sheet stamps

Note: the Big Tree is a multi-trunked (fused trunks) baobab, *Adansonia digitata*, standing just off Zambezi River Drive. It has been regularly photographed by visitors for over a century



107 RUSSIA

Weapons of Victory in the Great Patriotic War



110 SOUTH GEORGIA

Queen Elizabeth II



112 ZIMBABWE

Victoria Falls

A HANDY CROSS-REFERENCE TO ACCOMPANY THIS MONTH'S NEW ISSUE GUIDE

The most popular collecting themes are listed in alphabetical order, with the reference numbers of all the relevant entries in this month's New Issue Guide, guiding you quickly to the new stamps which most interest you. Personalities are given a separate listing for your convenience. A single stamp issue will often be cross-referenced under more than one category.

THEMES

A

Administration & Government: 016, 017, 037, 039, 054, 058, 061, 062, 081, 088, 099, 103
Agriculture & Animal Husbandry: 082, 105, 106; Cattle 104
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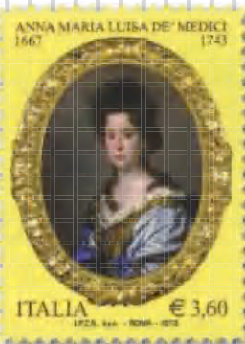
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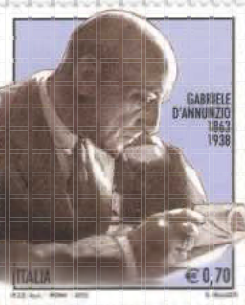
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British monarch

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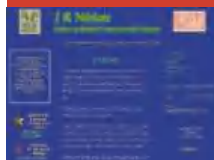
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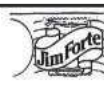
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Philately Understood

Selling Your Stamps?

Summary Tip #20:

5 Different Ways to Sell your Stamps: Dealer 'runners' / Private Treaty.

Dear Colleague,

In Part 2 of 'Selling Your Stamps' (Volume 2) we discussed the advantages of direct sale to dealers and how with careful handling and awareness of the 'strength of your collection' it is often possible to obtain more for your collection selling directly to dealers than by selling through auction.

In Part 4 of 'Selling your Stamps' we'll discuss the potential advantages and disadvantages of selling through auction on your own account but in this article we'll deal with two lesser known but nevertheless important aspects of selling your stamps the first being Dealers 'runners'.

Before you even start to try selling your stamps; preparation is all. Make some research:

1. Draw up a list of whom you consider as a possible target to sell / handle your collection. then consider –

...but try as I might – I never once saw an advertisement by those companies to sell stamps.

2. Why have I chosen those dealers/organisations?

Here's something to think about ... for the best part of 20 years I watched the same advertisements extolling the merits of selling to this or that particular dealer ... but try as I might – I never once saw an advertisement by those companies to sell stamps. This was in 'pre-internet' days ... nowadays people trade on the internet with all manner of weird and unusual trading names, sometimes to disguise who they actually are – but in those days traditional selling 'avenues' were shops, stamp fairs, auctions, approvals, and retail/mail-order lists

... so why was it impossible to find out how those dealers actually conducted their business? The answer was simple – they sold to other dealers – they rarely if ever sold to collectors – they were Dealers 'runners'. Now for you to part with your beloved collection to the first dealer that

you contact does not necessarily mean that you have made a mistake ... but, if that dealer writes you out a cheque ... and almost before the ink has even dried on it – (probably before you have presented the cheque at your bank) ... he or she is at the nearest big dealer 50 miles away being paid a profit upon the price you sold your collection for – this is NOT in your best interest.

So what should you be looking for? You should be looking for an organisation / dealer that you can see and understand how they conduct their business. Dealers that sell to other dealers are unlikely to be paying the best price.

Private Treaty: What is it?

The idea of Private Treaty is that collectors 'place' their collection with a dealer or auction that charges a small commission to sell their collection outright. Sometimes it is claimed that the Buyer will pay the commission so that the collector pays no charges whatsoever. Historically 'Private Treaty' has acquired notoriety as an excuse for the company handling the transaction to 'buy-in' the collection for themselves. Maybe collectors and dealers should forget the concept of private treaty in favour of an open approach whereby the dealer/auction explains that they are purchasing on their own account ... or will charge a small percentage for handling/passing the collector/ collection to a more appropriate buyer. In Part 4 of 'Selling your Stamps?' we'll discuss consigning your stamps for sale by auction.

Happy collecting from us all,

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Managing Director: Universal Philatelic Auctions, Omniphil & Avon Approvals, Avon Mixtures, Universal Philatelic (Elay)



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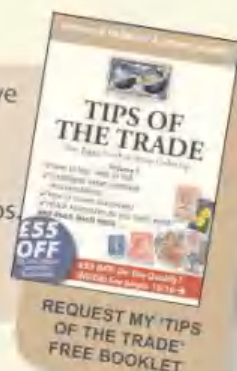
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Unidentified sailing object

Promoting the tourist attractions and British refinement of Bermuda by way of its 1936 pictorial issue should have been plain sailing, but for an alien invasion

■ Report by John Winchester

By 1936 Bermuda was already one of the most sophisticated and well-developed tourist destinations in the world, but its stamps lacked a certain flair. So a new pictorial issue was planned, of nine denominations to be designed and recess-printed by Bradbury Wilkinson.

The designs were intended to extol the beauty, the attractions and the Britishness of the islands, with views of the coast and large country houses complemented by the image of a racing yacht at speed on the 2d value.

As a matter of protocol, the photographs on which the engravings would be based had to be approved by the Governor, but maybe the retirement of Sir Thomas Cubitt and the arrival of Sir Reginald Hildyard as his successor caused a lack of attention to detail.

The plan had been to portray the Bermuda-rigged 6m racing yacht



Viking, owned and campaigned by local yachtsman Kenneth Trimmingham. For some inexplicable reason, a photograph of a similar vessel was substituted for this, an error which became apparent only when the owner himself examined the printed stamp under a magnifying glass.

Embarrassingly, the impostor was *Lucie*, not only a major rival in the very competitive field of ocean racing, but one owned by Briggs Cunningham II, an American!

The stamp, issued on April 14, 1936, won considerable acclaim for its stylish design, and was reissued (in different colours) as part of the new King George VI definitive series in 1938. Unbeknown to many, however, the yacht was an alien impostor! ■

LEFT: Bermuda 1936 2d black and pale blue depicting the racing yacht *Lucie*

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Old Dutch



The attractions and the key challenges of collecting the first stamp issue of the Netherlands, in use for 12 years from 1852-64

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FOR FREE STAMP TRADE TIPS – Please visit our website
www.upastampauctions.co.uk



Philately Understood

Don't think we can pay you up to 36% more?

COLLECTORS ARE RIGHT TO BE WARY OF LOFTY CLAIMS BUT THERE MAY BE GOOD REASONS WHY YOU MAY FIND SOME OF THEM TO BE TRUE

The stamp market constantly fluctuates so that at any given moment **if there is too much of what you wish to sell on the market**, despite what anybody claims, no dealer can offer you **massively** more.

However, there may be good reasons why some stamp organisations can offer you significantly more and pay you immediately rather than waiting months for the unknown of what you may or may not sell at auction – and you will be waiting even longer for payment.

It all depends upon that stamp dealer's/auction's business model. UPA buys and sells globally but if for example the nearest stamp dealer you approach only sells British stamps to a small market place then there is a strong possibility that he/she may be fully stocked already – so that if a price is proffered to you there is an increased likelihood of your receiving a lower offer as your collection, or part of your collection may be 'traded on' to a larger dealer. Worse still, other unrelated areas of your collection may be neglected or not valued in any offer you receive.

If you consign your collection to auction and it is unsuitable or too time-consuming for that auction to 'break' it into smaller lots – then there is a very strong probability that you will be paying an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer WHO could afford to pay you up to 36% more than you will receive. Don't forget most auctions charge the buyer of your collection up to twice the commission, or more, that they charge you.

It doesn't make sense for you to pay an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer, when – if you handle the transaction wisely – you can receive the up to 36% more for yourself.

What happens when you ask UPA to make you an offer?

First we ask you to tell us about your collection **and we listen**. Then we ask you how much you know about the market for your type of collection? At this stage we add to your knowledge, informing you of current conditions you may be unaware of. Then we discuss whether we may be well placed to assist you and how that may be achieved.

Providing your collection has sufficient potential we may offer to visit without charge or obligation, or we will offer to uplift your collection from your home at our expense, insured in transit (and whilst in our care) free of charge. If you are situated in mainland UK and your collection is too bulky for you to pack, provided your collection is valuable enough, we may even provide a free packing service in addition to shipping to our office.

Now we assess your collection and offer you the choice of agreeing a price that will be paid immediately – or of our bidding against other dealers so that you know you are achieving the best possible price.

that if an item has been previously unsold we **actually tell you**. Furthermore each time an item is unsold we reduce the price and we **keep on reducing the price – until finally the lot sells** or it is given away. In practice good material sells quickly whilst other material finally finds its own price and sells. This is the reason why there are always 1,000's of new offers at UPA and part of the reason why we are usually in a position to pay you more and pay you immediately.

Furthermore, unlike some, UPA has not one but **4 different selling systems** selling 95% of stamps to collectors, so that when a collection is purchased the most valuable/

interesting stamps go into our Universal Philatelic Auctions (a NEW UPA UK record 2,031 different bidders in the last auction). Intermediate/lower-priced sets/singles enter our Omniphil and Avon Approvals systems (established 56 years and over 1,250 regular collector clients), inexpensive stamps enter the Avon Mixtures system and eBay (universalphilatelic) for surplus material. All of which is why UPA can purchase and pay for almost literally anything.....

WHAT DOES UPA BUY?

UPA literally purchases almost any country collection worth £250 upwards from sets and singles to classics and entire British, British Empire, Europe and World collections. At the moment UPA has **exceptional demand for original collections and GB & British Empire** in particular.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folks at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37+ years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman. I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value. I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

SCOTTISH
& NORTH
OFFICE
– BUYER

COTSWOLD,
MIDLANDS
& SOUTH
– BUYER

National number please contact: Andrew McGavin or John Cowell on 01451 861 111
number please contact: Andrew McGavin or John Cowell on 01451 861 111

Guarantee: We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process; you will always be in control. E-mail or Contact UPA now: 01451 861 111

Why can UPA often pay considerably more?

We often buy at auction. That auction takes the **"up to 36% more"** that we pay that YOU DO NOT RECEIVE.

However – there is another equally important reason namely **The UPA Business Model**. Unlike most dealers we believe that if an item is not selling, then it must be too expensive. This is the reason why when you receive our quarterly catalogues of up to 20,671 different lots (you can request a sample one free) ... you will find

What do I do next?

You contact UPA and talk to one of our friendly Team who will help to inform you so that you can decide how to progress matters there is no charge and no obligation **please CONTACT UPA NOW**.

Remember, if you are selling a collection collectors buy the stamps they are missing; this is why dealers exist. Most intact collections offered at auction sell to dealers. **Save commissions and uncertainty by contacting UPA today.** We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process, you will always be in control. **CONTACT our friendly UPA Team NOW: 01451 861 111**

If you'd like to discuss the sale of your collection please contact Elaine or Andrew on 01451 861111

Visit www.upastampauctions.co.uk when you want to buy or sell stamps.

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

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Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297

www.upastampauctions.co.uk • sellSM@upastampauctions.co.uk



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REQUEST MY 'TIPS OF THE TRADE' FREE BOOKLET



Philately Understood

WHAT EVERYBODY OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT COLLECTING AND BUYING AND SELLING STAMPS

Advance Notification of upcoming NEW 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' + 'Case Studies'

Some Plain Talk about the simple business of stamps which often seems complicated

Why is my business publishing this information?

I can remember the day I found my Father's stamp collection in the bottom drawer of the bureau in the dining room more than 45 years ago. Aged 11, I was excited travelling the world through his stamps. In those days every school had a stamp club and mine was no exception. I took the collection to school and joined the stamp club. When Mr. Armitage (the Chemistry Teacher who ran the club) asked what stamps we collected I said "Wurttemberg" – much to everybody's surprise. In fact they were from Austria and the page was misclassified. They were those imperforate 1920's Austrian Newspaper stamps which fascinated me and as everybody now knows are hardly worth anything ... but probably they helped me get started in stamps.

Over following years I found little help in understanding stamps, so much had to be learned the hard-way, which is why my company UPA publishes what I dare to hope are useful articles about collecting and buying and selling stamps. It is my hope that these prove valuable to you and that we may serve you if you decide to contact us ...

There are several different types of stamp businesses

In fact no two stamp dealers are alike. What a truism that is. Once in Amsterdam I made the mistake of admitting to the owner of the stamp shop I was visiting that I was a dealer. In almost perfect English "We Don't sell to Dealers" and he turned his back. So did I - as I left his shop. But over the years I discovered that the only way to succeed in stamps was to create a business of stamp selling systems and join them all together. This is what allows us to handle stamps from literally every single country in the world. Recently in coming articles which I shall call 'Case Studies' the strength of this business model has become apparent.

How can UPA help you?

If You are Collecting You can Request ...

1. **Auction:** Take £55 OFF Your 1st purchase (UK clients + selected countries) Offer: Request your Next Free UPA auction catalogue worth £15 comprising 20,000+/- lots from £'s to £1,000's. Apart from £55 OFF you'll benefit from UPA's Unique combination of features to collector colleagues – NO Buyer's Premium – Reducing Estimate System till sold or given away – All lots Guaranteed – Modest shipping + Free Insurance. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**
2. **Approvals:** Take £25 OFF Your 1st Approvals purchase (UK clients + selected countries): Individually identified and priced stamp selections of stamps from most countries in the world sent to you on approval. You select those you want and return the rest with payment. Established 56 years. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**

3. **OFF-paper WORLD / Country Mixtures** – Unit priced – buy those you want, return those you don't – UK clients SEND £6.45 – over 100,000 bags supplied. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**
4. **On-line?** E-Bay clients – hundreds of lots starting 1p auctions though to £20,000 collections on-line. Visit www.upastampauctions.co.uk for links to eBay account ID's: upa-global, universal-philatelic, upa-collectables, upa-online
5. **PRIVATE TREATY:** A new UPA selling system – valuable collections sold / matched to clients on a commission basis. Modest fees, No sale, No charge. British Empire collections required to £250,000, GB collections to £500,000, Collections / Postal History / Foreign from £2,000 upwards

If You are Selling Please Contact Andrew / Elaine at UPA:

Valuable Collections wanted: We can use and have clients who require GB collections to £500,000, British Empire / British Commonwealth to £250,000 and Foreign required. **Telephone, Fax or E-mail now.**

"We Don't sell to Dealers" and he turned his back.

Why does UPA make Promotional Offers?

Unlike most other stamp companies we believe in giving before hoping to receive. We believe in proving to YOU that your trust in dealing with UPA is well founded. Proving to YOU in advance of asking you to purchase from us is much of our model.

Most collector colleagues stay with UPA which is why we can make you such an extraordinary offer. 2,031 different collectors (and some dealers) bid in our latest auction, 88% of whom won lots. Without pernicious buyer's premium average regular collector bidders save £250 a year at UPA. *Client loyalty is the reason why we can offer 1st time buyers aged over 18 (!) £55 OFF your 1st auction purchase whether you spend more than £55 or not.* **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**

Advance Notification of NEW 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' and 'Case Studies' to follow

We're going to be publishing more articles in the coming months. If you would like to know more about how my company may serve you ... please use the coupons beside the Index in this **Stamp Magazine** ... if you are really interested please do it **NOW**, don't forget to Request My 'Tips of the Trade' FREE booklet too!

! Please contact us in any way today

Looking forward to hearing from you.
Thank you for reading

Andrew

Andrew McGavin Managing Director UPA



Andrew Promoting Philately
Alan Titchmarsh Show ITV

Contact us in any way today

**Universal Philatelic Auctions (SM12): 4, The Old Coalyard,
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